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Vol. 54, No. 5 Whole Number 437

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

THE COVER—On March 18, M. Gaston Monnerville, of the Rassemblement des Gauches (Radical Socialists), was elected president of the Fourth French Republic's Council of the Republic, which corresponds to the Senate of the Third Republic, by 141 of the 273 votes cast, replacing M. Champetier de Ribes (MRP), deceased.

M. Monnerville, formerly representative for French Guiana and vice-president of the Radical Socialist party in France, was born on January 2, 1897, at Cayenne, French Guiana. He was admitted to the Paris Bar Association on completion of his studies in Cayenne and at the *Faculté de Droit* in Toulouse. He was deputy in 1932 and 1936, under secretary of state for colonies in 1937 and 1938; and following the disaster of 1940, he became a member of the FFI, reaching the rank of major. In recognition of his outstanding achievement in the cause of Free France, he was subsequently decorated with the *Médaille de la Résistance* by General De Gaulle. He was also head of the special mission which continued the work of the 1944 Brazzaville conference.

More recently prominent Guiana-born personalities include the late Félix Eboué, colonial administrator, and his wife Eugénie Tell Eboué, representative for Guadeloupe. Among famous colored people born in French Guiana were Maximilian Liontel, *procureur-général*; Dr. Sainte-Rose, the army surgeon; Alexandre Franconie and Henri Ursleur, deputies, and the engineer Léonce Melkior.

•

MRS. RUTH DANENHOWER WILSON (How Dimly Does Ellis Arnall See? page 138) is the author of *Jim Crow Joins Up:* A Study of Negroes in the Armed Forces of the United States (1944). She comes of a Navy family and has lived in various sections of the South. She now lives in New York City.

•

WALLACE VAN JACKSON ("The Countee Memorial Collection at Atlanta university," page 140) is librarian at Atlanta university, Atlanta, Georgia.

•

WILLIAM C. ("BILL") LANE ("Meet Bennie Benjamin: Songwriter," page 145) though born 25-years ago in Rosedale, Mississippi, prefers, for numerous reasons, to say that he's "from New Orleans." He was educated in the public schools of Greenville, Mississippi, and Memphis, Tennessee. After a few years work as waiter on South American steamers, he moved to Niagara Falls, N. Y., and thence to Detroit, where he now makes his home. His journalistic education is a product of the University of Iowa. He has written stories and articles for such national magazines as *Coronet, Pageant, The Woman, Digest & Review, Pathfinder,* and other magazines.

While turning out a weekly column, "Swinging Down the Lane," for the *Detroit Tribune,* he also writes scripts for radio station WAYZ, Detroit. At present he is rewriting his 100,000-word book about outstanding Negro theatrical artists, and at the same time completing his first novel.

•

BOOK REVIEWERS (pages 154-155) are Charles Enoch Wheeler, poet, Chicago, Ill.; and W. Hale Thompson, lawyer, Hampton, Virginia.

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College and School News

Dr. Dwight O. W. Holmes, president of Morgan state college, was speaker to the charter day audience at HOWARD UNIVERSITY on March 3. He paid tribute to the founders, and especially to General Oliver O. Howard.

Dr. Holmes was also one of the recipients of the Howard alumni award for distinguished post-graduate achievement, the others being George E. C. Hayes, prominent Washington attorney, and Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville, Tennessee, who has distinguished himself in law.

The UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS announces the promotion of Dr. N. O. Calloway to the rank of clinical assistant professor in internal medicine.

Dr. Calloway holds the Ph.D. as well as the M.D. degree and belongs to many scientific and honorary organizations.

The ANTIOCH COLLEGE, Yellow Springs, Ohio, Race Relations Committee has written 180 letters to churchmen, stage artists, night-club entertainers, and labor leaders asking them to contribute funds to a six-year-old race relations scholarship fund at the college. The scholarship fund was established in 1941 when students and faculty found that many students belonging to minority groups were unable to attend Antioch for financial reasons. In the first year, students and faculty raised $1500 from their own pockets. The college now has fourteen Negro students, six of whom are receiving aid from the race-relations-scholarship fund.

Guest column of the AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATES in March was written by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. "Colleges have swung," says Mr. Embree, among other things, toward democracy during the past decade. There is scarce an institution left, outside the segregated South, that is not open to all students regardless of creed or color. . . . The great triumph is in faculty appointments. Five years ago only two Negroes held posts in institutions other than southern colleges. And these were in laboratory posts, hidden away from the general classrooms. Today fifty-six Negroes are teaching in colleges and universities from New York university to the University of California."

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READ THE CRISIS

Fred J. Carnage, Raleigh, N. C., attorney, has been added to the teaching staff of ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE. Mr. Carnage, a graduate of Morgan college and Howard university law school, is giving a course in business law.

Thirty-one students from twelve states and the British West Indies achieved the honor roll for the first semester. Although men students constitute about forty percent of the student body, they make up fifty-five percent of the honor roll. Fourteen of the seventeen men listed are veterans.

Twelve Negro colleges and universities, in five southern states, have been added to the five-year program designed to improve college teaching, launched in 1946 by the CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING. This expansion brings to forty-five the total number of southern colleges and universities participating in the Carnegie project.

Sixty-second founder's day exercises of MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE were celebrated March 5-6, with Attorney Ray Hughes, member of the Columbus, Ohio, civil service commission, as principal speaker. Other speakers were Dr. George L. Hightower, for the alumni; John Miller, for the Turner theological seminary of the college; and James Tillman, a senior, for the college students.

According to an announcement of the registrar's office, fifty-five students made the first-semester honor roll. Top scholastic honors were taken by Willie Frank Payne, Dorothy Elizabeth Adams, and Joseph L. Butler.

Agnes Durrah of Plainville, N. J., has been added to the college staff as an instructor in physical education for the second semester. Herbert Boggs of the mathematics department has returned to the staff after spending a year in residence at the University of Chicago working toward his Ph.D. degree as a General Education Board fellow.

Fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of LANGSTON UNIVERSITY was celebrated on March 10, with Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois as the principal speaker.

Dean Thomas P. Fraser of DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE reports thirty-four students on the dean's list for the first semester. Top-ranking student is Olive Stewart, honor graduate of the Howard high school, Dover, Delaware; second-ranking student, Mildred Robinson of Wilmington; and third-ranking student, Ercell Watson of Wilmington.

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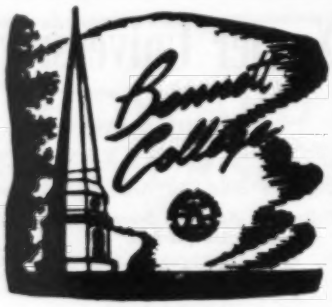

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was host on March 24-25 to a family life conference, with Mrs. Marie B. S. Key, of the Planned Parenthood Association, as major consultant. Student and community groups worked under the direction of Dr. V. E. Daniel, dean of the college and professor of sociology.

Sixty-fourth annual session of the Alabama State Teachers Association was held at the college, March 27-28.

The All-American News Reel has featured the art department of LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) in a news-reel short. Dr. W. Sherman Savage, head of the department of history; and T. D. Pawley, instructor in English at the college, are conducting university extension classes at the Manual Training high school in Kansas City, Mo.

The university was host to the fourth annual school for ministers, March 17-28, a school conducted by Lincoln in cooperation with the Committee for Training Negro Pastors and the Home Mission Council of North America. National Negro Health Week was observed at the university March 30-April 6, under the general supervision of Mrs. Pauline Eans, head nurse at the school. Others assisting in the observance were Yvonne Walker, Virginia Burrell, Evelyn Walker, Mrs. Myrtle Livingston, William Exum, and Charles Heard, all faculty members.

Obitt Reed Meadors of Lynchburg, Va., is a recent addition to the staff as instructor and critic-teacher in biology and general science in the laboratory high school.

"Ozark Bonfire," by Geoffrey Jennings, '49, of Kansas City, was voted the best painting in the recent exhibit of paintings by Lincoln art students. Selections were made through a poll of the persons visiting the exhibit.

Twelve persons who completed baccalaureate degree requirements at the end of the first semester at Lincoln have applied for degrees.

Three hundred and seventy-one war veterans attending school under the GI bill of rights are among the 1047 persons studying at the university during the second semester, according to the registrar, Dr. Walter R. Talbot.

Eightieth anniversary of the founding of JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY was observed on April 7, with the principal address being delivered by Dr. Walter L. Lingle, president emeritus of Davidson college, Davidson, N. C.

Acting registrar Moses M. Belton reports 113 students on the honor roll for the first semester, distributed among the classes as follows: 38 seniors, 30 juniors, 18 sophomores, and 27 freshmen. Although veterans make up only

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thirty-seven percent of the total enrollment, they make up fifty percent of the honor list.

President Henry Lawrence McCrorey celebrated his birthday, on March 2, through a special vesper service and reception held under the auspices of the Pyramid club and the Gamma Lambda chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Recent speakers at BENNETT COLLEGE have been Owen Lattimore, head of the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations at Johns Hopkins; and Rupert Hoover, director of youth work for the Methodist church, Nashville, Tenn. Jessie Lee Dickson, an alumna, gave a recital at the college on March 7.

As climax to the observance of Senior Week, seventy-nine Bennett seniors received caps and gowns, with the senior-day address being delivered by President David D. Jones. Gwendolyn Alexander of Philadelphia, Pa., led the class.

Twenty-first annual home-making institute was held at the college, April 20-25. Participants in the week's activities were Nannie Burroughs, National Training School for Girls, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Grace Townes Hamilton, executive secretary, Atlanta Urban League; Frances Fuller, Newark YWCA; Dr. Dudley Porter Miller, lecturer in applied physiology, Yale university; and Mrs. Gladys Groves, well-known author and lecturer.

At the close of home-coming week in March, the College Graduate Association turned over $830 to the college loyalty fund, which gives scholarship aid to worthy high-school graduates.

Recent visiting-speakers at ATLANTA UNIVERSITY have been Charles P. Taft, president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Idwel G. Jones, acting commissioner of labor for West Africa; E. Sims Campbell, nationally known commercial artist, who spoke at the opening of the sixth annual university art exhibition; and Rabbi Abraham Feinstein of the Mizpah congregation in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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Recent events at SPELMAN COLLEGE have been a concert by the college glee club; a concert by the brilliant soprano, Camilla Williams; a recital by Edwin Gerschefski, piano-composer; and a series of lectures by Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president emeritus of Vassar college.

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Felix Payant, editor of *Design* magazine, conducted workshop sessions in the problems of teaching art appreciation at the college, March 6-8.

Walter R. Chivers, chairman of the department of sociology at MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, was recently re-elected to the presidency of the National Conference on Adult Education and the Negro.

A plan for a continuing clinic on successful home life on the campus was one of the proposals made at the close of the three-day marriage institute on March 15, sponsored by the department of sociology at Morehouse, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., and the Butler Street YMCA, Atlanta.

Annual concert of the college glee club, under direction of Professor Kemper Harreld, was given in March.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE was host, April 11-13, to the Housing Institute, designed to focus attention upon current housing problems. Among the participants in the sessions were Dr. Frank Horne of the NHA; H. C. Trenholm, president, Alabama State; M. F. Whittaker, South Carolina State; Henry Davenport, FPHA; Joseph Albright, Veterans Administration; and Ernest Delpit, president carpenters union, New Orleans.

An added feature of the second annual Food Show and Nutrition Institute, April 17-19, was a workshop for chefs and headwaiters.

W. S. Cooper, instructor in barbering practice and science at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE, was recently awarded an M.A. degree in vocational education by New York University. Mr. Cooper is a graduate of Shaw university, Raleigh, N. C.

Pan-American day was observed by WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE on April 13, with Haitian ambassador to the United States, Joseph Charles, as the principal speaker. The round-table portion of the CBS coast-to-coast program, "Opinion Please," five to five-thirty P. M., March 28, featured students from the college. Topic for discussion was, "Do We Have A Free Press?"

Religious emphasis week was observed at SHAW UNIVERSITY, March 11-14, under the direction of Dr. Gardner Taylor, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist church, Baton Rouge, La. Annual Baptist series devoted to a study and interpretation of usages and tenets of the Baptist church were held at the university, March 24-26. Annual theological alumni day was observed April 11.

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Editorials

RICKEY AND ROBINSON

TO Branch Rickey, president of the Brooklyn baseball team, must go the major credit for the presence of Jackie Robinson in major league baseball at first base for the Dodgers of the National league. Rickey shrewdly picked Robinson during 1945 as the most likely Negro prospect. Jackie was signed to a Montreal contract that fall and played first class baseball in the minor league during 1946.

Rickey did not bring Robinson up at the close of the season nor yet at the beginning of the 1947 training season. Instead, he held off the announcement until April 10, just five days before the opening of the season. Rickey knew his man and the indications are that he knows his public and can see the signs of the time.

Robinson is a superb athlete, having starred in baseball, basketball, track, and football at UCLA on the West Coast. He is a competitor, is accustomed to huge crowds and knows something of spectator psychology. He is accustomed to playing with and against white boys and men. He is acquainted with what may be called "locker room" problems and he knows something about getting along with hostile individuals. In addition, he is an ex-lieutenant in the army, a man who served his country and won his officer status after starting as a private.

Of all the cities with National league teams Brooklyn seemed most likely to greet Robinson with minimum reservations and give him an even chance to make good on his merits. So Rickey made his plan and carried it through. At this writing it appears that his plan has not mis-fired at any point. The sports writers and the fans have been won over to a fair shake for Jackie. The only remaining question mark is the attitude of some of the Dodger players (not all of them from the South) and of players on other teams in the league.

The solving of this question is largely up to Robinson himself, but he can get valuable aid from the fans and the public. White and Negro fans ought to try and judge Robinson as a ball player, not as a miracle man. He will strike out, commit errors, and have his batting and fielding slumps just as all ball players do. He is not hired to solve the race problem, but to play baseball. Negro fans, especially, should not embarrass Robinson by their conduct in the stands, by special attention to him and no one else, by booing other players, by loud comments and racial arguments with other fans. Negro newspapers have their duty to perform in this respect, also. In the first game Reiser was the Dodger hero, but from the headlines in one of the larger weeklies one would have thought Jackie was the whole show. This kind of reporting and editing can do as much damage as a drunken, loud-mouthed fan.

Robinson can be an ambassador of racial good will to millions of Americans if he is given a chance. The judgment and courage of Branch Rickey and the skill and courage of Robinson himself should be rewarded by thoughtful and sensible reactions on the part of Negro and white Americans.

FOREIGN POLICY AND FEPC

A GREAT debate is in progress over American foreign policy. It is interesting to note that in a letter last June to the expiring Fair Employment Practice Committee, the then Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson wrote: "the existence of discrimination against minority groups in the United States is a handicap in our relations with other countries. The Department of State, therefore, has good reason to hope for the continued and increased effectiveness of public and private efforts to do away with these discriminations."

One area in which it is conceded there is widespread discrimination is that of employment. Great sections of American opinion believe federal legislation can help in this area and to that end a new bill, S. 984, known as a "National Act Against Discrimination in Employment" has been introduced in the Senate and endorsed by the National Council for a Permanent FEPC. It is an improved bill over that offered and debated in the 79th Congress, being patterned closely after the New York state law, now in successful operation.

Full attention was given the points raised in debate last year with the result that a better balanced piece of legislation which retains full enforcement powers is now before Congress.

The bill has bi-partisan sponsorship, with Republican Senators Ives (N. Y.), Saltonstall (Mass.), Smith (N. J.), Morse (Ore.); and Democratic Senators Chavez (N. M.), Myers (Pa.), Murray (Mont.), and Downey (Calif.), lending their names and support to it. The same bill has been introduced in the House by a number of Republicans and Democrats including Norton (N. J.), Fulton (Pa.), Javits (N. Y.) and Dawson (Ill.).

More than fifty national organizations, including church groups of all faiths, organized labor through the AFL and CIO, civic bodies, and racial organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League are working together through the National Council in support of the bill. Senator Robert A. Taft, chairman of the Senate Labor and Welfare committee, has named Senator Forrest C. Donnell (R. Mo.) as chairman of the sub-committee to hold hearings on the bill. Other members are Senators Irving M. Ives (R. N. Y.), H. Alexander Smith (R. N. J.), Claude Pepper (D. Fla.), and Allen J. Ellender (D. La).

Supporters of this bill should write Senator Donnell asking him to hold a hearing soon and to vote a favorable report on the bill to the full committee.

The passage of this legislation will redeem pledges made by both major parties. In addition, it will strengthen America's position in the difficult and delicate negotiations on foreign policy.

FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS

IT is estimated that the cost of the campaign to root Communists out of government jobs will cost $50,000,000. If it is agreed that the most effective way to combat Communism is to strengthen democracy, why doesn't the government spend $50,000,000 to guarantee Negroes their rights as citizens?

How Dimly Does Ellis Arnall See?

By Ruth Danenhower Wilson

Ellis Arnall has been widely touted as a liberal on the basis of his achievements as governor of Georgia. Though one of the best governors Georgia has ever had, it is suggested in this article that his "liberalism" stops at the color line

FOR several years there has been a feeling that Ellis Arnall is a "phony liberal," an opinion largely based on his record as attorney general of Georgia, and more recently on his lukewarm attitude as governor in the case of the four Negroes, two men and two women, lynched in Monroe county last July. However, since all his running mates in Georgia were worse, not even "phony liberals," it seemed wise not to call attention to his shortcomings even when his engagingly written book became a non-fiction best seller. But now that his eyes seem to be viewing the national scene with desire, now that he is speechifying in many states, with rumors rampant that he would like to run for senator or vice-president, the sincerity of his liberalism becomes a matter of great importance. He is a young man and an able man. Should he reach the Senate, under the present system of seniority, he might easily be there long enough to become chairman of many important committees. Should he become vice-president, the hand of God might even make him president. So let us examine *The Shore Dimly Seen* to find in his own words just what sort of liberal he is.

Already he has been publicly challenged for his vitriolic references to Boston, such as on page 99, as "that festering mudhole," and for his frequent references to a "nasty little hate sheet published in Boston," as if similar products do not come at times from many of our States. These terms of his are mere manifestations of a defense mechanism based on a guilt complex which is not uncommon to our southern friends. When a playmate's taunt goes home, a small boy frequently replies: "You're another!"

The most disturbing thing in Arnall's dimness of vision is his conception of civil rights.

In his chapter on "The Paradox That Is the South," he outlines a program for that region and on page 25 says: "The enumeration of needs appears to be entirely on the economic side. There is no specific mention of civil liberties or of states' rights. The answer is that the civil liberties of our people are in no immediate danger of violation; they risk only the erosion incident to poverty and the political weakness that accompanies it."

He backs up this amazing statement by recalling, on page 14, that "while Burnside was imprisoning citizens right and left without warrant, James Louis Pettigru could speak freely for the Union and against the Confederacy on the streets of Charleston, and, dying, could be accorded the rites of a hero." Pettigru was a white man and all that Mr. Arnall has to say about civil rights in Georgia may be true about white men, but what about the civil rights of Negroes in Georgia and all the other Southern states? As a white citizen who has, through no fault of her own, resided for sixteen years of her adult life in three states of the South, including Mr. Arnall's Georgia, may the writer ask him whether his sight is so dim that he has not seen the civil rights of Negroes customarily disregarded in the following ways?

Taxation without representation. Disproportionate number of representatives in Congress based on the

Ex-governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia.

Acme

total population of the state, through which the number of voters is calculated, although actually about one-third of the population (Negro) has not been permitted to vote in the primaries, which almost invariably decide state and federal elections. Violation of civil rights through not being permitted to serve on juries, not even juries chosen from lists of voters in municipal elections in which Negroes usually vote in the South. Violation of civil rights through jim-crowism in transportation in direct violation of the federal statutes.

Racial Restrictions

Violation of civil rights in not being permitted to walk freely and peaceably in any area at any hour. Can Mr. Arnall deny that there are many sections of the larger cities of the South where (illegally) Negroes are never allowed to walk, such as certain public parks and white residential sections, and that there are other areas where there is an illegal curfew for Negroes? Or that there are many sections of southern beaches where no Negro is allowed to set foot, in spite of the fact that all beaches are federal property to the line of the average mean tide? Apparently the Atlantic is zoned for the whites and the Pacific for the Negroes.

Mr. Arnall on pages 100-101 in his chapter on 13,000,000 Americans mentions segregation only by recalling how John Gunther asked him why on a Saturday night in Atlanta only whites windowshopped in Peachtree Street while "there were literally thousands of Negroes on Decatur Street, visiting, shopping, and fraternizing." Here is Mr. Arnall's answer: "I explained to Mr. Gunther that there was no law, no city ordinance, and no prohibition which kept white citizens from going on to Decatur Street. Likewise, there was no prohibition preventing the Negroes from strolling down Peachtree Street. He asked me why it was that they didn't. The only answer that occurred to me was that the whites preferred to window-shop on Peachtree, while the Negroes preferred to visit together on Decatur Street."

Can Mr. Arnall deny that if Negroes in hundreds or even dozens attempted to window-shop in Peachtree Street on a Saturday night they would be run off illegally by indignant whites, probably with the help of uniformed white police?

Turning from civil liberties to the economic needs of the South, Mr. Arnall has a very constructive program. But even here, the rights of the Negro are almost wholly disregarded. He brushes off the proposed permanent Federal Fair Employment Practice Commission by opining that it is "class legislation." This, in spite of the fact that the legality of the New York Anti-Discrimination Bill on which the national is closely based remains unchallenged. Does Mr. Arnall therefore see no class legislation in the maintaining of municipal libraries, casinos, parks, ball teams, swimming pools, bathing beaches, bands or orchestras "for whites only," although such city enterprises are all supported in part by Negro citizens directly through taxes or indirectly through rent? Sometimes the letter, if not the spirit of the law, is observed in these appropriations for lily-white projects, say a casino or library, by being sure they are located at an address reserved by custom for whites. Almost never are similar facilities designated for all-Negro sections.

On page 35 he says the most tragic lines in Howard Odum's *Southern Regions* speak of America's waste "reflected in the vast potential power of millions of youth undeveloped and untrained, moving through life without sensing their abilities or maturing their capacities, oblivious of the wide reaches of opportunity."

Of course, Mr. Arnall attributes all this to freight differentials, to the fact that federal funds are not allocated on the basis of needs, and to the strangling by huge national industries of small enterprises in the South. On page 188 he quotes Jefferson's dictum that freedom from monopoly is among the basic civil liberties. Yet nowhere does he mention the way economic opportunities are denied Negroes in the South by the white Southerner. Has he not seen many cases where Negro business men have been cruelly put down because they became "too successful" in their competition with whites, particularly if they did not use that success to influence others of their race to "vote the right way?" Survey the eminence of many Negroes in the North and Middle West as business men, lawyers, doctors, legislators, judges, and college professors, etc., and it contrasts sharply with the record in the South where even federal civil service positions are frequently illegally closed to them. Mr. Arnall complains in page after page of the Negro slums to be found in the large cities of the North and Middle West, saying he is not proud of the Negro slums in the South, but at least there is room for expansion. He apparently does not see that housing is not the only expansion desired. His vision does not recognize that the South contains few "windows to the future" for the Negro race.

Neither does Mr. Arnall see the reasons why the Negro, while comprising one-third of the population in the South, makes up one-half of the poverty of that region. Nowhere does he admit that the reasons largely lie in the lack of equal opportunities for education, for medical treatment, for hospitalization, for equal pay for equal work. Mr. Arnall calls attention to the low standards of Southern schools, saying the Negro schools are even lower than the white because of difficulty in finding qualified Negro teachers. Nowhere does he speak of the smaller amount spent by Southern states for the education of a Negro child as compared to that spent on a white child, nor of the difficulties southern Negroes meet in trying to get higher education. When nothing adequate exists nearby and they, therefore, wish to enter northern colleges, they are not allowed to set foot in the white southern schools designated as college-board-examination centers.

Arnall's Colonialism

Mr. Arnall speaks bitterly of the system of colonialism which, if continued, will make the inhabitants of the South mere "hewers of wood and drawers of water," but nowhere does he see that the South itself is still doing everything possible to keep one-third of their population, the Negroes, in just those occupations, frequently without even giving them pay equal to that earned by whites for equal work.

He indulges in such high-sounding generalities as: "Men did not cross the Atlantic in fragile ships to seek security, but to find opportunity to express their individual personalities. They came in search of one thing: freedom." Nowhere does he mention that the ancestors of one-third of the South's population were brought here in slave ships and, while they do not have complete freedom yet in any part of these United States, they have less in his beloved Southland than anywhere else.

Mr. Arnall has a whole chapter on "The Land Made Waste." But Nowhere does he mention the tragic waste of human possibilities which he could point up by showing the tremendous asset to our nation that the achievements (almost always in the North and the Middle West) of thousands of eminent Negroes is today; successes that might have been multiplied a thousandfold if opportunities were not consistently denied them in the South.

Everywhere Mr. Arnall pleads for "an America that is one community," without sectionalism, but he disregards the fact that whenever any but Southerners make suggestions about changes in interracial conditions in the South,

(*Continued on page 156*)

The Countee Cullen Memorial Collection at Atlanta University

By Wallace Van Jackson

THE first anniversary of the death of Countee Cullen was the occasion for much interest in the books, photographs, and other materials in the collection of Negroaña established in his honor at Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia.

The collection, officially known as the Countee Cullen Memorial Collection, founded by Harold Jackman, originated with a small gift made by an alumnus of Morehouse College in August 1942. From the beginning the chief sponsor and greatest contributor has been Mr. Harold Jackman, teacher in the public school system of New York City and friend and patron of the arts and letters. Though born in London, Mr. Jackman received his education in the public schools of New York and New York and Columbia Universities, holding an M.A. degree from the latter institution. From 1935 to 1937 he was associate editor of *Challenge,* a literary magazine edited by Dorothy West. Mr. Jackman is a life member and executive board member of the Negro Actors Guild and has been active in all artistic and literary movements which have started in Harlem.

This collection consists of theatre bills and programs, music and concert programs and bills, manuscripts, printer's proofs, newspaper and magazine reviews, books, periodicals, photographs, art programs and bills, reprints, pamphlets and broadsides, advertisements and critical notices. The emphasis is upon contemporary life although some rare older items form a part of the collection. Upon the death of the internationally known poet, Countee Cullen, Mr. Jackman had this collection of Negroana named for his friend as a memorial to Cullen's great interest in the Negro and to his faith in the future of his race.

The Countee Cullen Memorial Collection now contains more than 3,250 items, with the theatre represented by 448 pieces; music by 571 pieces, and

This collection was founded at Atlanta University by Mr. Harold Jackman in memory of his friend, the late Countee Cullen. With emphasis on contemporary life, the collection is rich in music, theatre, and periodical items

M. Smith

HAROLD JACKMAN

Intimate friend of the late Countee Cullen and founder of the Cullen memorial collection at Atlanta university.

civic and political activities by 763 items. There are 450 newspaper and magazine clippings, 228 photographs, 276 periodicals and 117 pamphlets in the collection.

Among the printer's proofs are three of Cullen's books: *Ballad of the Brown Girl, Color,* and *The Lost Zoo;* and Margaret Walker's *For My People.* The proof of Horace Mann Bond's article, "Negro Education—A Debate in the Alabama Constitutional Convention of 1901," is also included. The sixty manuscripts include Arna Bontemps' *Father of the Blues,* Gwendolyn Brooks' notebook of poems for *A Street In Bronzeville, A Report of the Public School Facilities for Negroes in Atlanta,* edited by Dr. J. A. Pierce and others, organizational drafts of the program and announcement of the famous Durham, North Carolina, Conference on Race Relations, and twenty items by Pearl Buck, Arthur Spingarn, Carl Van Vechten, Dorothy West, Walter White, Langston Hughes, Owen Dodson, Claude McKay, and others. Among the letters is one addressed to E. L. Alexander by Captain William H. Jackson of the 48th Infantry, U. S. Army, who was stationed at Manila in the early part of the present century. The collection has the sheaf of letters of permission for the use of poems published in *Golden Slippers,* edited by Arna Bontemps. Finally, there is Clarence Cameron White's manuscript of the "Suite on Negro Folk-tunes."

Photographs

The photographs form a very popular and important part of the collection. Most of them are by Carl Van Vechten and include likenesses of all the outstanding Negroes of the drama, of the dance, of art, of literature, and of civic and political life who have spent time in New York City.

Music is represented by forty pieces of sheet music, the words of which were written by Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and James Weldon Johnson, and music written by William Grant Still, Clarence Cameron White and J. Rosemond Johnson, among others. Most of this material is inscribed. The Town Hall Programs

HARLEM ON REVIEW —*One of the exhibitions in the Cullen memorial collection.*

extend back to 1926 and include the programs of most of the Negroes who have appeared in this famous music hall. This is especially true of the last ten years. The collection also has programs of the concerts of Rudolph Dunbar in Paris and London as well as a few other bills and programs of foreign appearances; such as those of Jules Bledsoe in Paris and London, and Ella Belle Davis in Mexico and Havana, Cuba.

The dance programs and bills run the gamut from student dance recitals through the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo to the extravaganzas of Pearl Primus and Katherine Dunham. Foreign performances are represented by the programs of Maudelle in Mexico.

Many of the noteworthy Negro painters and sculptors of the United States are represented by exhibition programs or announcements and bills from famous galleries. Barthé, Bearden and Lawrence have the largest representations. Illustrated greeting cards by Woodruff and Barthé are also interesting items of the collection.

Theatre announcements, bills, programs, notices, and reviews form a large part of the Countee Cullen Memorial Collection. The programs include many, if not most, of the plays in which Negroes have played for the last two decades. They range from the Comedy Theatre's "Black Boy" of 1926 and Belasco's "Lulu Belle" of 1926 through the Federal Theatre plays of the depression period to "Othello" of 1945, and "St. Louis Woman" of 1946. The *Playbill*, that famous New York theatre program, is represented by one hundred and seven issues. In each program the Negro is a minor or major character. An important part of the theatre section is the 105 issues of the *Newsletter*, official organ of the Negro Actors Guild of America. The library has a fairly complete set from vol. I, no. 1, May, 1940, through vol. VI, no. 3, December, 1946.

An examination of the programs, announcements and bills of civic and political life of the Negro will disclose the fact that, in Harlem at least, people are interested in every phase of life conceivable for a civilized community. Their interest ranges from youth organizations as represented by the Southern Youth Conference and various local groups through an address by Paul Robeson on the "Artist as a Citizen," and the courses in the George Washington Carver People's School, to political speeches by Benjamin Davis, Jr., Grant Reynolds and Charles A. Collins, and demonstration meetings to save the Fair Employment Practice Committee.

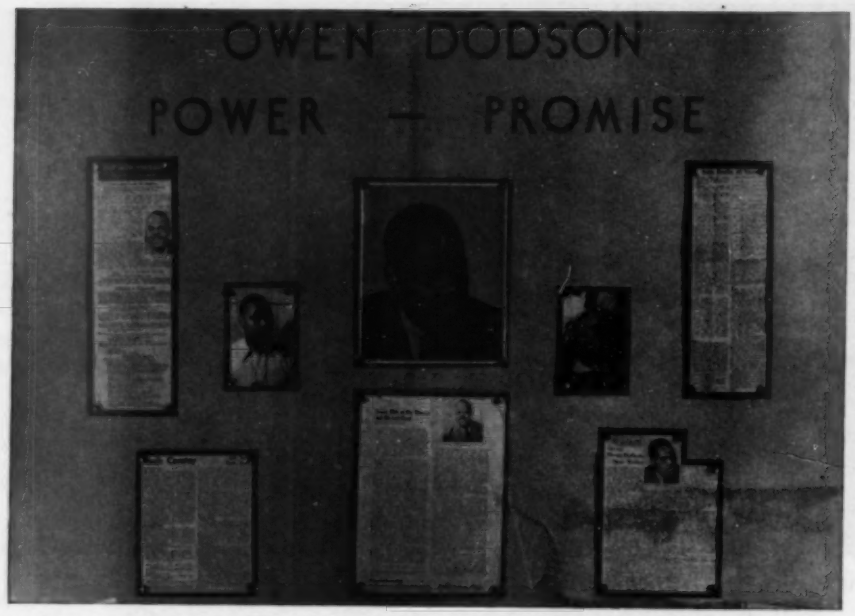
Books and Letters

Although the collection is not primarily concerned with books, many contemporary Negro authors are represented, often by inscribed books or letters or pamphlets. Several first editions are included. Some authors represented by association items are: Georgia Douglas Johnson, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, Arna Bontemps, Langston Hughes, Walter White, Gwendolyn Brooks, Dantés Bellegarde, Earl Brown, William Wells Brown, J. C. Byars, Owen Dodson, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. DuBois, Jessie Fauset, Rudolph Fisher, Augelina W. Grimke, C. L. R. James, Charles S. Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, Harry Liscomb, Alain Locke, Wallace Thurman, Jean Toomer, Carl Van Vechten, Margaret Walker, Eric Walrond and Richard Wright.

Langston Hughes is represented by more than thirty items, including the manuscript and seven drafts of the "Ballad of Margie Polite," typewritten poem, and seven drafts of "Dear Mr. President," and many poems which appeared in magazines before being collected for publication in books, such as the poem "Refugee in America," one of the *Footnotes to Childs* leaflets. The twelve items from the pen of Countee Cullen include the printer's proof of *Color*, bound and inscribed to Harold Jackman, and three rare poems not included in *Copper Sun* but published in *Folio*.

The plays and poems of Owen Dodson are in the library in manuscript and printed form. The former includes the two handwritten drafts of "The Decision," and the drafts of "For the Riesers," the poem "Open Letter" printed on Christmas, 1945, "Poems for Kenneth," and poems printed in *Theatre Arts* and *The Yale Literary Magazine*.

Each of the 276 periodicals in the collection contains prose or a poem by or about the Negro. In some cases the poems are the only printed product of the author. Rare periodicals include *The Metropolitan*, vol. 1, no. 1, *Fire*, vol. 1, no. 1, (inscribed by several writers), *Palms*, vol. IV, no. 1, (the Negro poets' number edited by Countee Cullen), *Picong*, vol. 1, no. 3, (the magazine of Creole humor), and *The Negro Market*, vol. 1, nos. 9, 10, and 11, and vol. II, no. 1. All of these are collector's items.



The Owen Dodson panel in the Cullen memorial collection at Atlanta. Mr. Dodson's latest published volume of poems is Powerful Long Ladder.

Contributors

From the beginning a small group of persons have been adding material to the collection. In addition to Mr. Jackman, the largest contributors have been Miss Dorothy Peterson of Brooklyn, New York, Langston Hughes, who is guest professor of creative literature at Atlanta university during the second semester of 1946-47, Carl Van Vechten, who founded the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection at Yale, who has worked with Mrs. Johnson to contribute valuable items; Owen Dodson, some of whose plays were first produced at Spelman College when he was professor of speech and director of the University Players; and the estate of the late Countee Cullen. Scores of persons have contributed a few items each; some rare, and all valuable.

The collection is housed in folio cases, pamphlet cases, filing cabinets and on shelves at the Atlanta university library in the Negro collection rooms, where they are processed and serviced along with the famous Slaughter collection of books an other materials on the Negro; and with the Clarkson and Wilberforce slavery items, the Maude Cuney Hare music collection and the John Brown papers. The combined collections fill thirty-two sections of standard steel stacks. The Negro collection, with the invaluable Countee Cullen Memorial section, comprises one of the most significant collections on the Negro in the United States. Although the collection is not fully catalogued and is not yet open for general use by students and researchers, several persons studying the Negro have written for information and a few have used the material in the rooms.

The Cullen collection forms a natural adjunct to the Slaughter and other sections of the Negro collection at Atlanta University. With its emphasis upon the contemporary Negro it supplements the other collections and will keep them up-to-date. Much of the material in the collection is unique in southern libraries and the combined collections make the Atlanta university library a mecca for students interested in the literature and art of the Negro.

The Cullen collection offers collectors and persons interested in perpetuating the literary and artistic works of Negroes a safe repository for the material. Books, pamphlets, manuscripts, proofs, programs, bills, clippings, photographs and music will be well preserved and made available for study by students and researchers. It is the hope of the founder of the collection and of the librarian of Atlanta university that each year will bring new contributions and that the best of the contemporary material on the Negro will find its way into the Cullen collection. Each year an exhibition is held in the lobby of the University Library, the materials for which are selected from the gifts for the current year. Programs of the two former exhibitions are "Harlem on Review" in 1943 and "The Contemporary Negro" in 1945. Donors may send material for the Countee Cullen Memorial Collection to Mr. Harold Jackman, 50 Morningside Avenue, New York 26, or to Miss Ellene Bentley, librarian, Negro Collection, Atlanta University, 273 Chestnut Street, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

Some of the display cases of the Cullen memorial collection.

DANISH DEMOCRACY

Neger i Nakskov som Overlærer

Maribo, Torsdag.

DET maa tages som Udtryk for, at Danmark er ude over alle Racefordomme, at en Neger er blevet udnævnt til Overlærer ved det kommunale Skolevæsen i Nakskov.

Det drejer sig om Lærer Cornelins, der stammer fra Sct. Thomas, og som i en Aarrække har været en meget dygtig og ahfoldt Lærer ved Nakskov kommunale Skole. Cornelins er meget musikalsk og underviser bl. a. i Sang.

TRANSLATION

"Negro as Principal Municipal School"

"Maribo, Thursday.

"It may be taken as proof of Denmark's being beyond all racial prejudice that a Negro has been appointed Principal of the Nakskov Municipal School. The gentleman in question is Mr. Cornelins, who hails from Saint Thomas and who for a number of years has been a very capable and popular teacher at the Nakskov Municipal School. Mr. Cornelins is a fine musician and one of the subjects he teaches is singing."

(*Politiken* is the leading Danish Liberal paper. Needless to say, the teachers and students of the school are all "white." Nakskov is a city of about 20,000 inhabitants.)

Granz and the Jazz Philharmonic

Here is the way one musician has set about to better race relations

A PROGRAM to mobilize band leaders in a drive against racial discrimination has been initiated by Norman Granz, producer of Jazz at the Philharmonic.

Granz has issued a letter to more than thirty band leaders, which reads in part:

> . . . Thirty-six of the leading playwrights in the country, and leading producers, directors, and members of Actors Equity, either pledged or promised to investigate the possibility of pledging themselves to a clause whereby they never would be forced to play a segregated theatre. The obvious corollary to this is that those of us in music either should do something similar or at least find some comparable method whereby we can add our voice against discrimination. . . . I am suggesting that we . . . band leaders . . . find some way to fight this disgraceful situation (discrimination and segregation).

Among the band leaders who received this letter were Gene Krupa, Cab Calloway, Woody Herman, Artie Shaw, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Kaye, Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Louis Prima, Count Basie, and others. The responses were favorable and indicated a strong interest in a band-industry program for fighting discrimination.

Typical of the replies are those from Artie Shaw, who wired: "Enthusiastic concurrence in your plan"; Charlie Barnet, "Am heartily in accord with your ideas concerning non-segregation of races"; and Count Basie, "We are one hundred percent with you."

Granz himself has used an anti-discrimination clause in his contracts for several seasons. It reads as follows:

It is the essence of this agreement that there is to be no discrimination whatever in the sale of tickets and that there is to be no segregation of white people from Negroes. In the event of any violation of either of these provisions by you, the management of the hall or anyone else, Mr. Granz has the privilege of refusing to give the concert, in which case you will forfeit one-half of the contract price to him.

What about the South? On this issue, Granz says: "Where jim crow is statutory, we can at least work for a guarantee of equal facilities for all groups, and cooperate with groups both within and outside the entertainment field to defeat such statutes. Whatever we as band leaders and musicians can do will be a step forward, and when our action is combined with the efforts of Actors Equity and other branches of the entertainment field, we will be a long way toward eliminating jim-crow practices in this country." Jazz at the Philharmonic will not play the Deep South because of the statutory discrimination.

Twenty-eight-year-old Norman Granz, originator and mobilizer of this method of combating racial discrimination, was born in Los Angeles, California. He went to school in Los Angeles and before joining the Army had attended the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). After he left the service, he began to put on Sunday "jam sessions" [musical get-togethers in which all the playing is collectively improvised] in some of the Hollywood clubs. He used these sessions to fight prejudice by insisting in each club that there be no color discrimination nor jim-crowed, segregated seating plans. The result was that a number of clubs stopped excluding Negroes.

Granz founded Jazz at the Philharmonic, a jazz concert ensemble consisting of the nation's leading jazz instrumentalists, in 1944; it was an outgrowth of his earlier "jam sessions." The first major concert was given in 1944, a benefit for twenty-one Mexican youths convicted for an alleged crime during the hysteria following the Los Angeles "zoot-suit" riots of 1943. (The boys were ultimately freed.) The benefit concert was a smashing success. Granz

SNOWBOUND IN BUFFALO, N. Y.—*From left to right, Benny Fonville, Buck Clayton, Kenny Kersey, Buddy Rich, Flip Phillips, Norman Granz, and Willie Smith, stars of* JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC.

HELEN HUMES

She is especially potent as a blues singer, undoubtedly inheriting a "blues feel" from having appeared with Count Basie so long. Miss Hume is the author of the sensational song, "Be-Baba-Leba." She is vocalist with the Granz group.

followed this with a series of eighteen concerts at the Philharmonic Auditorium in Los Angeles, from whence sprang the title, *Jazz at the Philharmonic.*

Since its inception, Jazz at the Philharmonic has been dedicated to fighting discrimination and prejudice. Granz has staged benefits for FEPC legislative campaigns, for legislation to outlaw lynching, and for interracial institutions in New York City.

Granz feels that jazz is a good medium for reaching young people and starting their thinking on bettering race relations. Highlighted in all his program books and literature is the following inscription, which summarizes Granz's ideas in this respect:

"Jazz is America's own. It is the music which grew out of a young and vigorous melting-pot nation. It is a product of all America, deriving much of its inspiration and creation from the Negro people.

"Jazz holds up no superficial bars. It is played and listened to by all peoples—in harmony, together. Pigmentation differences have no place in jazz. As in genuine democracy, only performance counts. Jazz is truly the music of democratic America. It is an ideal medium for bringing about a better understanding among all peoples."

The present roster of talent on Jazz at the Philharmonic includes the following Negro musicians: Coleman Hawkins, Helen Humes, Buck Clayton, Trummy Young, Kenny Kersey, Benny Fonville, and Willie Smith. More than half of the group, including Granz, are veterans of World War II. During his past three tours, and he is now on his fourth, and during his initial West Coast period, Granz has used almost every major name in modern jazz on his concerts and "jam sessions."

Granz is now chartering Jazz at the Philharmonic Fan Clubs, and charters are available only to those groups whose membership is open to persons of all races, nationalities, and faiths. He is seeking cooperation with educational and community groups in utilizing the jazz medium as an opening wedge to intercultural educational programs, particularly among the youth.

NORMAN GRANZ

Granz has given benefit concerts for organizations fighting for the more democratic integration of minorities into American life.

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL HALF DOLLAR

THIS is the story behind the minting of the Booker T. Washington memorial half dollar by the United States Treasury Department.

Early in 1946, on the same day that a bust of Washington was being unveiled in the Hall of Fame in New York City, Congressman Thomas G. Burch (78th and 79th Congress) of Martinsville, Virginia, introduced a bill in the House to provide for the issuance of commemorative coins in honor of Booker T. Washington. The plan was to issue five million half-dollar pieces to be sold for a dollar each, the proceeds of which were to go toward the building of a farm and trade school for Negro boys and ex-service men.

The Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial had acquired 240 acres of land in Franklin county, Virginia, at Washington's birthplace; and the state of Virginia had already made a $15,000 contribution to the project. In order to raise the rest of the money the sponsors decided to have the Treasury mint special Booker T. Washington commemorative coins.

The House committee which considered the proposed bill for a commemorative coin then consulted the Treasury Department for their views on the matter. The Department replied that to have a variety of designs on United States coins would lead to confusion and increase the possibility of counterfeiting. They also referred to an act of Congress passed in August, 1939, which prohibited the further issuance of commemorative coins. Since minting of commemorative coins was not desirable, the Treasury Department suggested the issuance of a medal, which could be sold at a premium. Funds could be raised in this manner instead of through the suggested commemorative coins.

But despite the Treasury Department's views a bill was introduced in the House on July 12, 1946; in the Senate, on July 23. Senate expression on the bill was as follows:

> In this instance, however, an exception to the general policy is deemed appropriate in view of the national significance of the coinage contemplated. It is believed that the coinage would be a fitting tribute to Booker T. Washington, an inspiration to his race, and a symbol of the ideals shared by all Americans.

On August 7, 1946, President Truman signed the bill and thereby made into law the act "To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the life and perpetuate the ideals and teachings of Booker T. Washington."

Not only is this coin the first to be issued by the United States mint bearing the likeness of a Negro, but it is also the first to be designed by a member of this race. The designer is Isaac Hathaway, a member of the faculty at Tuskegee Institute. The Philadelphia and San Francisco coins are now being sold for a $1.00 each; the Denver coins, for a $1.50.

EUNICE TRUCKENBRODT

DON'T FORGET
The 38th Annual Conference
of the NAACP
WASHINGTON, D. C.
June 24 - 29

Meet Bennie Benjamin: Songwriter

By Bill Lane

Read how a young Negro has made himself into one of the top songwriters of the country

FOR a terribly onerous time it seemed that Negro songwriters could not create anything but pseudo-songs that dripped of sexy racial allusions, insinuations at infidelity, and physical unattractiveness.

For an extended length of time the only songs Negro tunesmiths were penning seemed to be hackneyed clusters of notes with lyrics made up of phrases so deplorable that they sound better unspoken, or unwritten. Oftentimes some almost illiterate Negro would write one of these equally daft songs and immediately his name would be paraded across the country as an "ace composer"; that would be just about all heard further from that "creative" gentleman. Worse still, the songs these brethren wrote would seldom be sung by even the educated class of Negro song-lovers, let alone the vast white singing population.

True, there were a few Negro composers in the popular idiom who did succeed in writing songs worthy of the fame they achieved.

Shelton Brooks' *Some Of These Days* was swept to fame by the singer Sophie Tucker; Noble Sissle's *I'm Just Wild About Harry* caught on; Andy Razaf's *Honeysuckle Rose* and *Memories Of You* came in for their share of the honors, and Duke Ellington's esoteric musical selections demanded a portion of the floodlights. But for the most part, the musical offspring of Negro tune-propagators could not be regarded as exceptional; that is, not until the coming of one Bennie Benjamin. But before reviewing the handiwork of this young composer, a brief examination of his life should be made.

Bennie Benjamin was born on the little Virgin Island of St. Croix. And since the Virgin Islands are territorial possessions of the United States, he was by birth an American citizen.

Mother Gave Inspiration

When Bennie was but a year old, his sea-captain father was lost with his ship in a hurricane in the Caribbean and never seen again. Somehow Bennie's mother mustered enough maternal courage to carry on with her little family as best she could. She would often dandle young Bennie on her knee and tell him how the art of living is accomplished. Bennie would look with childish wonder into his mother's ebon-hued face as she told him that life is a journey upon which many travelers become lost if they don't have the necessary guides of aspiration, ability, and persistence. Even though his mother spoke in stumbling, unscholarly grammar, young Bennie fully understood what she meant when she implied that "Courage in battle is half the battle won."

Bennie attended school in the Islands, and got as far as his junior year in high school before his mother bundled him off to New York City where she thought existed better opportunities for employment and education. But when Bennie arrived in New York he didn't enter school. Times were in a depressive state and he had to seek work to provide means of sustenance. Finding a job, he soon discovered, was also a pretty tough proposition for a fellow who'd just arrived in a new and strange country. Having studied some music in his native Virgin

Rapid News Photo

BENNIE BENJAMIN *(standing) and his collaborator, the pianist George Weiss. These two form one of the nation's top-song writing teams.*

Islands, he tried writing songs. His first-born faded into obscurity. Yet he didn't lose his desire to write songs. Many times he'd find himself humming tunes which seemed to haunt him incessantly. But times were too hard for speculation, and Bennie had to abandon his songwriting venture and settle down to manual labor.

Many of Benjamin's spare moments were spent in study of the banjo, under the expert tutelage of Hy Smith. Within six months he had learned enough about the instrument to play professionally. He started out in the entertainment field playing banjo in Napoleon's band at the *Savoy* in Harlem, working there for five years before leaving to go on a radio show for a toothpaste firm. While working at the *Savoy* he had made comedy appearances with Olson and Johnson. He also did comedy and songs with Sunshine Sammy and other popular entertainers on local vaudeville stages. After a few more years of work, appearing occasionally in shows at the Palace Theatre and the *Cotton Club*, Benjamin decided that it was about time for him to seek another method of making a living.

Once again, he tried songwriting. Once again, he met with dismal failure.

As before, much of his work was not worth the paper it was written on, and had to suffer the defeat of earlier Benjamin creations.

His First Hit

Then one day he completed a tune which he thought merited a chance. Accordingly, he took it to bandleader Tommy Tucker, and asked that musician what he thought of it. Tucker thought enough of the song to arrange an entire score for his band and featured it on one of his coast-to-coast broadcasts. Overnight, Bennie Benjamin's *I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire* became a national hit. And, as a matter of fact, so did Tommy Tucker and his band, by virtue of the wide success of the Benjamin song.

After that, Bennie's songs sprouted forth in successive leaps. He wrote *Strictly Instrumental*, which Harry James recorded and started on its way to being the biggest jump tune of 1942. When Bennie went into the Army Air Forces, he composed another tune: this one entitled *When The Lights Go On Again*, which became the biggest ballad of World War II. Upon his discharge from the armed services he teamed up with a white pianist named George Weiss, and together they composed *Oh, What It Seemed To Be*. The song was an instant success. It sold over a million sheet copies and more than three million records. For many weeks it was the number one song on radio's *Hit Parade* program. It was voted the top song of 1946 in both the *Billboard* and *Variety* song polls.

Next, Bennie wrote a delightful love ballad titled "Surrender," and within five weeks after its publication the song had reached the top brackets of the *Hit Parade* — was the song most-played on thousands of the nation's juke-boxes, and singer Perry Como's recording of it had sold well past the million mark.

A few weeks later, bandleader Harry Cool introduced another Bennie Benjamin song creation — *Rumors Are Flying*, and song success was once more for a light-hearted young colored composer named Bennie Benjamin. Never before in the history of songwriting had a Negro composer of popular songs produced so many consecutive hits, in such a short space of time!

A Top Popular Tune

Bennie's *Rumors Are Flying* was the nation's top popular tune for virtually three months. For three months it was the song most-played on the radio, on juke-boxes, and at sheet-music and record counters across the country. It was recorded by no less than seventeen major bands, singers, and small music "combos," with Frankie Carle's recording of it outselling all others.

By now the country's musical artists were well-acquainted with the Benjamin talent and success. So, when Bennie and Weiss turned out another song, *I Want To Thank Your Folks*, no less than twenty singers and music groups had recorded it before it hit the market in sheet-music form. The song was plugged via the jukes and ether by such stars as Joan Edwards, Frank Sinatra, Charlie Spivak, the King Cole Trio, The Cats and The Fiddle, The Ink Spots, and Eddy Howard. Benjamin's latest number, "I Want To Thank Your Folks," is just becoming popular. His other tune, "Speaking of Angels," is now in preparation and his publishers, the Santly-Joy Company, will issue it shortly.

One of the unique aspects of the Benjamin songs is that they can be sung without shame but with full appreciation and expression in the most intelligent circles. Here, at last, was a Negro songwriter worthy of being called a songwriter.

To meet Bennie Benjamin, one would be instantly impressed by his calm, refined poise and friendly manner of discourse. He talks like a poet and his voice carries some of the tonal charm found in his wonderful songs. He takes his big success as placidly as a sage, holding that "So long as my songs are successful, I'm satisfied." Which probably explains why he has thus far preferred to remain personally in the background and let his musical work speak for itself.

DR. OSCAR LEE NEW CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

DR. JAMES OSCAR LEE

At the regular bi-monthly meeting of the Executive Committe of The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, held in March, the Rev. Dr. James Oscar Lee was officially elected executive secretary of the Council's Department of Race Relations, succeeding Dr. George E. Haynes, now retired.

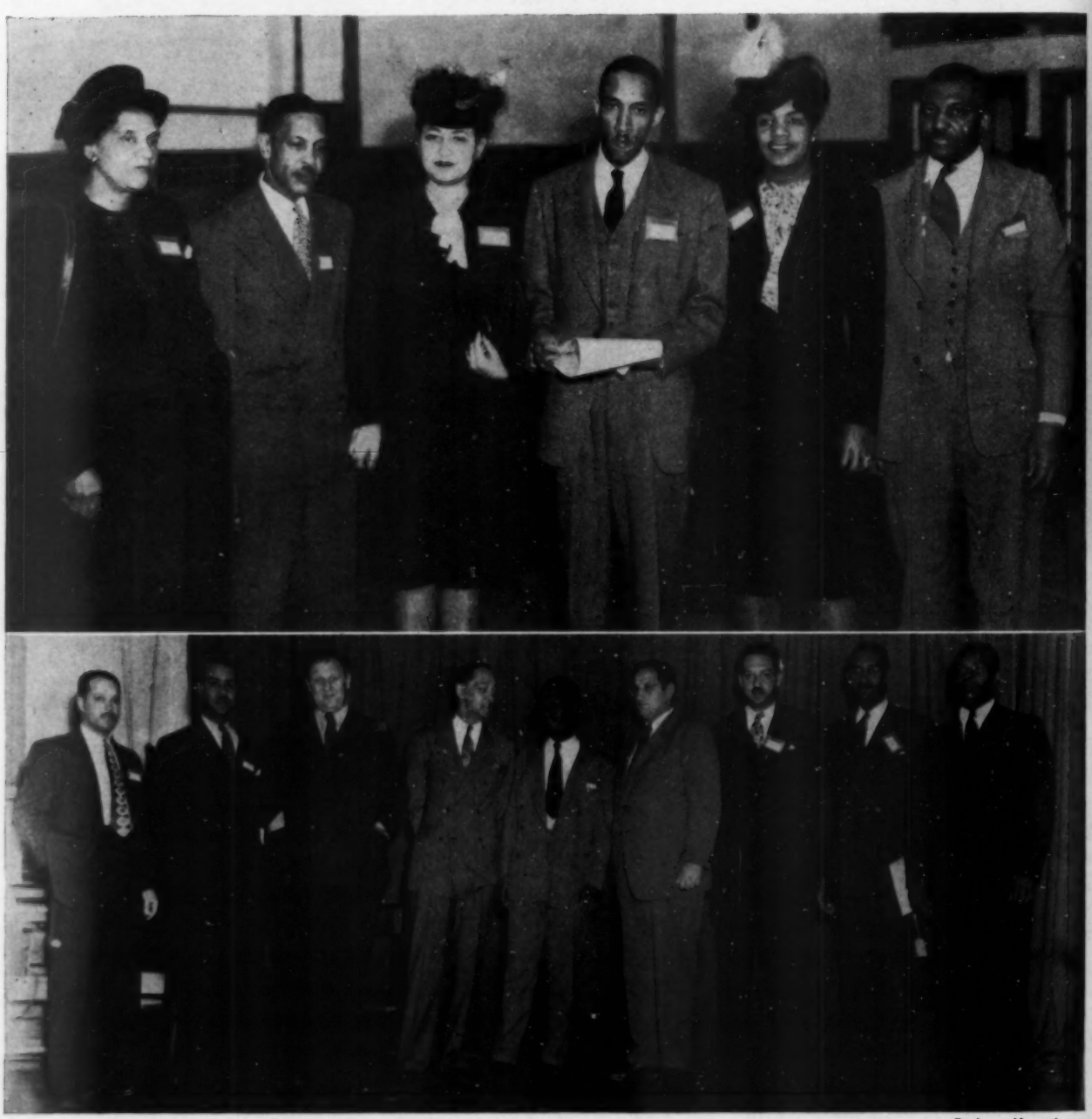
Dr. Lee is a graduate of Lincoln University (A.B.), Yale University Divinity School (B.D.), Union Theological Seminary, New York (M.A.), and is the first Negro to receive the degree of Doctor of Theology from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. His experience includes instructor, School of Religion, Howard University; assistant chaplain, Hampton Institute; minister of Nazarene Congregational Church, Brooklyn; professor, The Theological Seminary, Virginia Union University at Richmond. While at the latter post he organized the Department of Field Work in which were developed opportunities for field work experience for theological students, and a program of extension training for pastors in the State of Virginia.

Dr. Lee served the Department of Race Relations last year in the capacity of Field Secretary following his resignation from the position of Assistant Secretary of the Connecticut Council of Churches at Hartford, Conn.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN OF REGION 2 MEET IN NEW YORK

The high enthusiasm exhibited by the membership chairmen of Region 2, meeting in New York on March 22 in an all-day session, assures success for the eastern branches in their membership drive for 216,850 members. Reading, from left to right, top down, New England: seated, Mrs. Laura Bellamy, Minnie Pierce, Florrie Patton, Ernest Williams; standing, M. J. Baker, Jr., H. J. Tucker, George Gordon, Benjamin Patton, and Martin Richardson. Pennsylvania: seated, Mrs. Gloria Robinson, Mrs. Margaret Bowers, Mrs. Mary Murray, Mrs. Iris Braxton, Rev. S. Lomax; standing, front, Morton Majois, Willow Grove, James Cooper, W. P. Jacobs, Hattie Smith, Louise Lomax, Mary Bivens, Eddie Merritt; rear, Sherman Butler, Noah Cotton, C. I. Most, Mervin Tate, and Earl Tate, Sr. Maryland: seated, Lucille Black, membership secretary NAACP, Mrs. W. H. Pinkett, Mrs. Rachel Carter, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, youth secretary NAACP; standing, W. H. Pinkett and Leroy Wayman. Virginia: seated, Albert Ritchie, Nancy Wheeler, Mack Carter; standing, Mrs. Nellie Woods and Gloster Current director of branches NAACP. New Jersey: seated, Perry Litsinzer, Alston Smith, Mrs. Thomas Moore, Mrs. Carrie Johnson, Josephine Madison, Mary Munford, Mrs. Zenobia Riddick, Edna Mae Thomas, Mrs. Charles Gibson, James Skelton; standing, Richard Miller, J. P. Scott, Carl Leftwick, Eddie Bolds, Elias Hardge, Leonard Jones, James Alfonso, C. A. Marshall, W. G. Fisher, H. H. Arthur, Withas Gayle, Stanford Welcker, and Edward Shell. New York: seated, Mrs. Nellie Footman, Mrs. Odell Cannon, Mrs. Maria Baker, Mrs. Ella McKeiver, Mrs. Martha Miller; standing, James Europe, Medora Washington, Grace Wilson, Katherine Banks, Beatrice Muckle, John Cheatham, Edmond Bernard, Lucille Phelps, and Ruth Davenport.

COMMITTEEMEN AND DISCUSSION LEADERS, WEST COAST NAACP CONFERENCE



Gorham Newsphotos

Top, members of the conference planning committee of the San Francisco, California, branch, hosts to the West Coast Regional NAACP Conference March 7-8, shown here are Mrs. Annie Roan, A. L. Goolsby, Mrs. Margie Pogue, Cecil Poole, Florence Allen, and Noah Griffin, director of the West Coast regional office of the NAACP. Bottom, members of a panel which discussed current labor and employment problems during the two-day conference. Left to right they are Letcher Yarborough, Seattle, Washington; Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary NAACP and editor of The Crisis; David Jenkins, director of the California Labor School; Donald Glover, industrial secretary of the San Francisco Urban League; James Anderson, AFL organizer, Los Angeles; Philip E. Lerman, Los Angeles, international representative UAW-CIO; Thurgood Marshall, special counsel NAACP; Clarence Mitchell, labor secretary NAACP; and the Rev. D. D. Banks, Walla Walla, Washington.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Albert Murphy

CAMPAIGN WORKERS *of the Flushing, L. I., branch.*

EDUCATION

TEXAS vs. SWEATT: Hearings on Heman Sweatt's demand for admission to the University of Texas law school began in Austin on March 26. Proceedings actually began last May 16 when the NAACP filed a writ of mandamus in the local court at Austin. In June 1946 the court entered an order that the University of Texas in denying admission to Sweatt in the absence of an equal but separate law school had denied him the equal protection of the laws under the U. S. Constitution. The judge, however, stayed operation of the decree for six months, pending the establishment of a separate but equal law school by the state of Texas. On December 17, 1946, Texas filed a motion alleging that a separate law school had been established: it was on the basis of this motion that the court denied the writ of mandamus. Hence the immediate appeal of NAACP attorneys to the civil court of appeals of Texas.

The Association opposes the stand taken by the attorney general of Texas on the ground that before a state may allege a right to segregation it must first show the existence of facilities completely equal in all respects to those offered white students. Attack is also made upon the "legal fiction" and the "judicial myth" of *separate but equal* facilities. "There is, of course, a dictionary difference between the terms of segregation and discrimination. In actual practice, however, this difference disappears. Those states which segregate by statute in the educational system have been primarily concerned with keeping the two races apart and have uniformly disregarded even their own interpretation of their requirements under the 14th amendment to maintain the separate facilities on an equal basis."

One interesting result of the case has been a widespread campus revolt on the part of the students themselves against the jim-crow policy of the university. Several prominent professors have even joined in the demand that Sweatt be admitted. One youthful Texan, studying law at the university, in addressing a large non-segregated audience, said that he could see no reason why Negroes and whites in Texas could not attend the same school. The white students of the university have even organized a college chapter of the NAACP.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

GOALS ASSURED: After a recent nation-wide visit to branches and regions of the Association, Gloster B. Current, director of branches, has returned to the national office feeling confident that the "make it a million" goal will be achieved. Mr. Current bases his opinion upon the intense enthusiasm of campaign-membership chairmen and regional directors.

Branches in each of the five regions under the direction of regional coordinator Noah Griffin, San Francisco, have enthusiastically responed to the goals set by the national office, and they have in many instances voluntarily increased these goals. Daniel Byrd, coordinator for region five, reports that branches in his district have accepted their quotas, and in many instances increased them. In Oklahoma, campaign director Roscoe Dunjee has asked that his branches enroll as many white people as possible. In Springfield, Mass., the drive was launched on March 31 with a sponsoring committee made up of a college president, a bishop, and leading business men. Preston D. Gilmore and Charles G. Butterworth of the Third National bank, the largest in Springfield and the twentieth in size in the United States, have agreed to act as treasurers of the drive and to receive NAACP memberships at the bank.

In New York at a meeting of membership chairmen for region two, the representatives discussed plans and techniques which would enable the Eastern branches to fill their quotas. Among those participating were Joseph Raney and Mrs. Elizabeth Young of the Philadelphia branch, goal 20,000;

George Gordon of the New England conference, goal 17,350; Homer J. Tucker, Bridgeport, Conn.; and Rev. E. S. Hardge of the New Jersey state conference, goal 30,000.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

SCHEDULED FOR WASHINGTON: The thirty-eighth annual conference of the NAACP, June 24-29 inclusive, will meet in Washington, D. C., instead of in Atlantic City, N. J., as previously scheduled. The change was made after it had been discovered that three large conventions were going to meet in Atlantic City during the latter part of June, thereby making facilities for mass meetings and large gatherings unavailable. The District of Columbia branch, under the direction of Rev. Stephen G. Spottswood, has already named committees to prepare for the annual gathering of delegates.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SOUTH CAROLINA: More than 237 delegates representing 85,000 Association members in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi were in attendance at the regional conference held in Charleston, S. C., March 29-30. The conference adopted an agressive program on housing, labor legislation and civil rights, and issued a statement on political action reaffirming their stand against Communist infiltration of NAACP branches.

The conference likewise put itself on record in support of the Wagner-Ellander-Taft bill; progressive labor legislation; a national FEPC law "with adequate enforcement power;" a national bill of rights; abolition of the poll tax and a broadening of social security to include domestic and agricultural workers; minimum wage legislation; federal aid to education; and federal legislation to eliminate segregation of interstate passengers. It denounced police brutality and the use of racial stereotypes by the press, radio, and screen. In a statement on communism, the conference reaffirmed its adherence to the democratic way of life and put the delegates on record as opposed to communism or communistic tactics. Branches were called upon to scrutinize carefully communists or other dissident groups which might try to infiltrate the Association.

CHURCH SECRETARY

NEW POST: With the appointment of Walter Offut to the staff as church secretary the Association fills what has long been regarded as an important need. In announcing the appointment of Mr. Offut, the co-chairman of the religious activities committee of the NAACP, the reverends James H. Robinson and O. C. Maxwell, stated:

"Churches are becoming more conscious of their social role in society in addition to taking a more active part in fighting for civil rights, community betterment and against discrimination. At annual church meetings, Sunday school conferences, student assemblies in the summer, national women's missionary conferences, and other church movements there has been an increasing desire for leadership in the area of social action."

As a result of his background, Mr. Offut is especially qualified for his post. He holds an A.B. from West Virginia State college, an M.A. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania, and he has completed all requirements for the degree of B.D. at the Union Theological Seminary. He taught civics in the Louisville, Ky., public schools; was race relations field representative for the Office of Price Administration; and a one-time assistant pastor to the Mt. Olivet Baptist church,

EXECUTIVE BOARD *of the Orange, N. J., branch at installation ceremony in February. Pictured, front, left to right are Rev. Leon Sullivan, Mary Christian, Effie Manning, Mary Woody, Samuel Williams, Blondine Bruce, Gladys Bell, Elizabeth Alford, and Hulah Hepkins; back row, Elease Thompson, Delia Martin, Everett Simmons. David De Graffenried, Joseph Mumford, William Purdy, Amy Ray, and Cora Johnson.*

LABOR COMMITTEE—*Some of the members of the labor committee of the Los Angeles, California, branch in attendance at a committee-dinner meeting, March 6, to confer with NAACP labor secretary, Clarence Mitchell, standing, facing camera.*

THE LATE *Mrs. Edith Hardgrave, formerly secretary of the Oxford, Ohio, branch.*

Philadelphia, and the Bethany Baptist church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

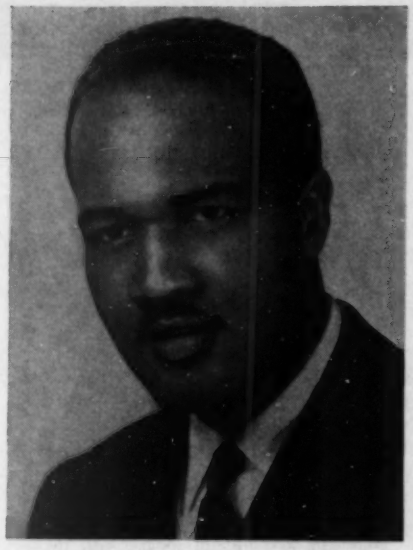
MISCELLANEOUS

JIM-CROW HOSPITAL: The Association has entered a vigorous protest against the establishment of a 200-bed, jim-crow veterans' hospital at Mound Bayou, Miss. Last June the Association protested against the establishment of such a hospital and received at the time a reply from David K. Niles, administrative assistant to the President, stating that there was no truth in the announcement that such a hospital was going to be authorized. He added, however, that there had been Congressional hearings on the establishment of a veterans' hospital for the Alabama-Mississippi area.

HOUSING BILL: An expression of NAACP opinion on the National Housing Commission Act, S-866, now being considered by the Senate Banking and Currency committee, has been filed with this committee by Leslie Perry, administrative assistant of the Washington bureau. Mr. Perry points out that there is an urgent need for Congress to meet the critical housing shortage which now faces all Americans, and especially Negroes, whose housing problem is particularly acute.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: A record number of delegates from youth councils and college chapters attended the sessions of the NAACP legislative conference held at Howard university, April 10-12. Purpose of the conference was to acquaint young people, both Negro and white, with the legislative processes as they operate in Congress. Highlight of the three-day conference was a march on the capitol, when the delegates visited senators and representatives. Among the speakers who addressed the conference were Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard university; George Weaver of the CIO; B. T. McGraw of the National Housing Authority; Clarence Mitchell, NAACP labor secretary; and Leslie Perry of the Washington bureau.

CLEMENCY: The legal staff has presented a plea for clemency for Frederick Conrad, a Negro soldier now serving a life term for the alleged rape of a German woman. NAACP attorneys hold that the soldier's guilt has not been established beyond the "reasonable doubt" required by law.



CHURCH SECRETARY *of the NAACP, Walter Offut.* *See "Church Secretary," page 150.*

RIOT-CONVICTION REVIEW: The Adjutant General's office of the War Department has informed the NAACP legal department that the cases of general prisoners William Gorman and Willie Bryant will be reviewed as soon as the necessary material is prepared. The Association had submitted a brief in behalf of Gorman and Bryant, maintaining that they had been unjustly and unlawfully convicted and that the facts now before the Secretary of War show their detention to be "unjust and improper."

Gorman and Bryant had been sentenced to twenty years and two years, respectively, at hard labor by a General Court-Martial sitting at Le Havre, France, on May 17, 1946, as a result of their conviction for having participated, along with fourteen other soldiers, in a "riotous and unlawful assembly," and for having assaulted military police.

PROBE ASKED: Brutal treatment of Private Townsend Horton, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., at Camp Kilmer, N. J., on February 27, has been brought to the attention of Col. Harold Duffie, commanding officer at the camp, and the War Department has been asked to investigate.

RETRACTION DEMANDED: Executive secretary Walter White has demanded that Governor Kim Sigler of Michigan make an immediate public retraction of his statement listing the NAACP as a "communist front organization." Mr. White points out that groups hostile to the Association often attempt to discredit the organization by dubbing it "communistic."

What the Branches Are Doing

CALIFORNIA: A representative group of delegates and visitors attended the West Coast Regional Conference of the NAACP, March 7-8. N. W. Griffin, regional secretary, made a report of the work of the West Coast Region and its problems. Among the resolutions adopted were the following: support of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft low-cost-housing bill;

NEW ASSISTANT FIELD SECRETARY *of the NAACP, Marion O. Bond. Miss Bond is a graduate of Lane college, Jackson, Tenn., and was for five years national sales representative of the Pepsi-Cola Co. She replaces Miss Noma Jensen, who resigned March 1.*

Thomas Photo

FOUNDER'S MASS MEETING *of the Montgmery, Alabama, branch held March 16, with Gloster B. Current, director of branches, as the guest speaker. This meeting marked the opening of the branch drive for 2500 members in the nationwide NAACP membership campaign. E. O. Nixon is branch president.*

retention of rent controls; condemnation of restrictive covenants; support of a national FEPC act; enactment of anti-lynching and anti-poll-tax bills; condemnation of police brutality; establishment of voting schools; condemnation of infiltration of Communists into branches; and opposition to the employment of racial stereotypes in media of mass communication.

COLORADO: The COLORADO SPRINGS branch mourns the death of its secretary, Mrs. L. Daugherty. Mrs. Daugherty was a good secretary and was well liked and respected by everyone in the community. She has been succeeded by Rev. Sam Williams.

IOWA: Models were fewer this spring, but a variety of fashions went on parade in March at the ninth annual style revue and charity ball of the DES MOINES branch. Feature numbers of the show were suits made by students of the sewing classes of Mrs. Georgine C. Morris.

KANSAS: The WICHITA branch adopted the following resolution in February: "Part I: Be it resolved that the State Legislature pass Fair Employment Practice Bill, establishing an FEPC, as submitted to the Kansas Legislature. Part II: Be it resolved that the Kansas Legislature pass the two amendments to the present State Civil Rights Act of 21-24-25-S 1935 that were submitted to the last Session of the Kansas Legislature." This resolution was submitted on behalf of the branch by Attorney Laurence S. Holmes, chairman of the branch legal redress committee.

MARYLAND: Regular meeting of the CAROLINE COUNTY branch was held on February 16, with a special address by Harley Taylor in observance of the founding of the branch.

For the first time in the history of the state of Maryland an all-white jury returned a verdict of guilty against a white man for the rape of a colored woman. The BALTIMORE branch, through its executive secretary Addison V. Pinkney, intervened in the case of the *State vs. Reeder* and was instrumental in getting a fair hearing on the charges of rape preferred by Mrs. Mary C. Lance of Baltimore against William Reeder, white. Mrs. Lance, mother of four children, and with child at the time of the attack, was able to make positive identification of her assailant. The attack occurred on November 13, 1946.

Following a complaint lodged with the executive secretary of the branch that the personnel office of the Read drug store at Fayette and Charles streets had signs "White and Colored" designating the rooms to which applicants for jobs reported, the branch addressed a letter of protest to Frank Ford, the manager. Mr. Ford called the branch and talked with the secretary. He admitted that the signs were posted not to embarrass or hurt any of the applicants, but because it was felt that it fitted into the general pattern of things in Baltimore. After the conversation, Mr. Ford expressed a willingness to remove the signs.

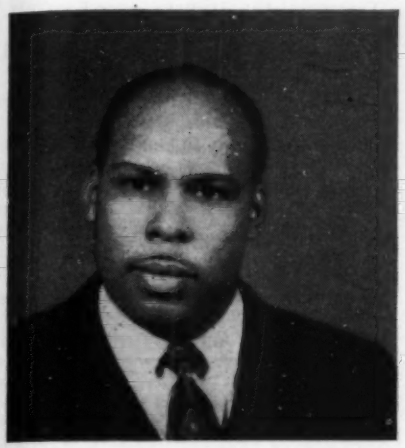
MICHIGAN: Competition in the drive of the DETROIT branch to raise money to fight restrictive cases is increasing and the two teams headed by Dr. James J. McClendon and Mrs. L. W. Tyrrell, respectively, are running neck and neck.

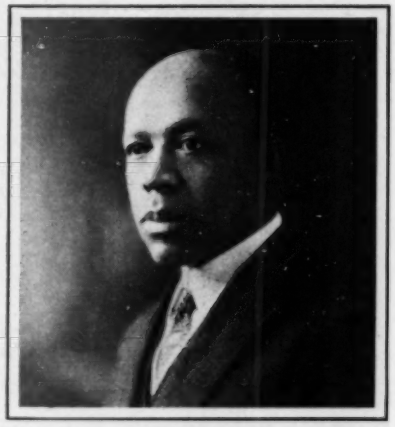
In a letter to Police Commissioner John F. Ballenger, the executive secretary of the branch, Edward M. Swan, has requested a complete investigation of the attitudes of police officers of the Hunt Street station toward Negroes. Mr. Ballenger promised to make a thorough investigation.

Negro citizens have made various complaints against the police attached to this station .Mr. Vaughn, an accountant and former deputy sheriff, said that he was stopped by two officers as he was driving his car away from the curb in front of a business establishment on St. Aubin street where he does accounting work. He stated that the officers abused him and took him into the station without telling him why he was being arrested. When he was brought before the desk sergeant and gave his address as 1946 W. Grand Boulevard, one of the officers is reported to have said: "I knew you were one of those smart niggers who lives over there where Judge Stein lives." In additional intimidating remarks the officer said: "I know you are a member of the NAACP and know that you are going to that nigger organization and we're going to give you something to tell them."

Another instance is that of William Rose of 600 Chandler Avenue. Mr. Rose says that he was stopped on Vernor Highway between Rivard and Russell Streets by two police officers, who apparently were looking for someone. While they were talking to him, the officers became abusive and one of them hit him on the shoulder with his night stick. While searching him, one of the policemen jabbed Mr. Rose in the stomach with his night stick. When Mr. Rose protested, the officers threatened to take him to the station house for "a going over."

MISSOURI: Regular monthly meeting of the SALINE COUNTY branch was held on March 10,





FOUR OF THE STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN *for Region 3 in the national membership campaign are, L to R, Willard B. Ransom, Indiana; T. G. Nutter, West Virginia; Alfred M. Carroll, Kentucky; and, below, Dr. R. C. Riddle, Michigan. Chairmen not pictured are E. B. Jourdain, Jr., Illinois; James W. Dorsey, Wisconsin; M. G. Ferguson, Tennessee; and Horace Rains, Ohio.*

at which time Frank Brown was elected president.

NORTH CAROLINA: The recently chartered ROCKY MOUNT youth council, under the guidance of Vivian Patterson as advisor, sponsored an interracial-brotherhood program during "Founder's Week" at the Negro Community Center. Chief interest in the program centered in the cooperation of the youth of the Second Presbyterian church and the Arlington Street Baptist church, both white.

NEW JERSEY: The LONG BRANCH unit of the NAACP celebrated Negro history week in February with an address by Ella Baker, formerly director of branches of the Association.

Membership campaign of the ELIZABETH branch was launched at the third annual educational program on March 16 at the Siloam Presbyterian church. The membership goal has been set at 1000 members. Guest speaker was Francis M. Hammond, professor of philosophy at Seton Hall college, South Orange, N. J. In order to stimulate competition, the areas covered by the branch have been divided up and assigned to three teams. Mrs. Leora Daye is captain of the "Red Team," Mrs. Julia Williams of the "White Team," and James McLain of the "Blue Team." Prizes will be awarded the team bringing in the largest number over 409 members, and individual prizes will go to each team members who solicits the largest number over fifty. Mrs. Nora James is general chairman of the membership campaign; Margaret Morrison and Nida Edwards, campaign secretaries; Bravell Nesbitt, president; and Dr. L. Greeley Brown, treasurer. The drive will close April 20.

The GLOUSTER and SALEM county branches are making rapid progress under the leadership of H. E. Anderson.

The educational survey made by Noma Jensen, former assistant field secretary of the NAACP, for the education committee of the

DR. C. R. RIDDLE

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R E A D

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NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES was presented to the delegates attending the quarterly session of the conference on March 29 at the Carver Center, Trenton, N. J., by Dr. U. S. Wiggins, chairman of the committee. The delegates moved to accept the survey, with thanks to all members who aided in its compilation. Copies of the survey are to be sent to all members of the New Jersey state legislature, the state superintendent of education, and the superintendent in each county. Resolutions were passed asking that each branch give special attention to that part of the survey which deals with their community with the idea of taking immediate corrective steps.

NEW YORK: The membership campaign of the JAMAICA branch began on March 17, with a goal of 5000 members. The drive will be under the direction of H. B. Williams, chairman of the membership committee, who will be assisted by Mrs. Pearl C. Blacklock.

Prizes in the campaign will be awarded as follows: first prize of $35 for 200 members or more; second prize of $25 for 175 members or more; and a third prize of $15 for 150 or more members. The drive will end May 15.

Branch celebration of Negro history week was climaxed with a banquet served in the dining hall of the Samuel Huntington junior high school.

OHIO: The OXFORD branch mourns the death of Mrs. Edith Hardgrave Turner, branch secretary. In additional to her NAACP activities, the following organizations engaged her attention: Bethel AME church, American Association of University Women, and Kappa Delta Pi, honorary educational fraternity. Funeral rites were held March 14.

Acting upon a letter from the CINCINNATI branch at the close of a city council meeting in February, Councilman Jesse D. Locker introduced a motion instructing city manager Kellogg to investigate and report back to the

council on the arming of citizens to participate in a manhunt for a man accused of attempted criminal attack upon a 45-year-old Cincinnati housewife.

Newspaper accounts varied as to the number of persons involved in the search, but reliable figures place the number at sixty, all bearing arms. Harold D. Snell, executive secretary of the branch, in investigating the incident learned that one, and possibly two calls, asking for armed volunteers, had gone out over the air on station WCPO. City manager Kellogg was also asked how the armed men were permitted to pass through the city streets without being stopped by the police. Director of safety Oris E. Hamilton stated that the vigilantes operated outside the city limits.

In a statement to the newspaper, Mr. Snell said:

"Our people are bitterly opposed to the criminals who commit sex offenses. We earnestly want to see all such person brought to justice, for rapists know no color line. Last Saturday, however, we were faced with a situation in which innocent persons might have lost their lives due to the neglect of the top men in our city administration, who should have put a speedy stop to vigilante action. In any police operation of this size all of the high ranking officers in the department keep in constant touch with developments. According to the top officials, they did not know of the existence of this armed mob until late Saturday afternoon, despite the fact that repeated calls for armed volunteers went out over the radio, and scores of civilians had been assembled. This constitutes a shocking laxity on the part of these men or a callous disregard for the safety of law abiding citizens. No decent Cincinnatian wants to have vigilante law imposed on Cincinnati."

The CLEVELAND branch staged a mass meeting at the Euclid Avenue Baptist church on April 15, with the meeting devoted to the topic of fair employment practice legislation for Ohio. Principal speaker at the meeting was Thurgood Marshall, special counsel NAACP.

The junior women's auxiliary of the branch climaxed its baby contest with a report meeting at the East End Community Center on March 28. The winners were, first prize, $25, Bruce Taylor; second prize, $15, Patricia Ann Miller; and third prize, $10, Joseph Ingram. Unofficial returns from the contest amounted to $804.61.

PENNSYLVANIA: Third annual charter-night-dinner of the EASTON branch was held in Hotel Easton on February 13. More than 250 persons attended the interracial affair, the proceeds of which, $100, were sent to the national office to help in the fight against discrimination. The guest speaker was Dr. Leon A. Ransom, formerly professor of law at Howard university. Other speakers were the Rev. George A. Creitz, pastor of the First Evangelical Reformed church, and councilman Russell Schooley, who welcomed the audience

Press Association

WHITE GIRL IN NEGRO SCHOOL—*Miss Karla Rosel Galarza, 22, daughter of Dr. Ernesto Galarza, former educational advisor to the Pan-American Union, has been ordered transferred from the Margaret Murray vocational high school, Negro, by the Washington school board. She and her father are fighting the transfer on the ground that nowhere else in the Washington school system can Miss Galarza get the same training in dress and costume design.*

on behalf of Mayor Joseph Morrison, who was unable to be present. The toastmaster was assistant district attorney Bernard M. Goodman.

The board of directors of the PHILADELPHIA branch on March 7 unanimously elected Mrs. Elizabeth K. Young as their new executive secretary. Mrs. Young has been acting secretary of the branch since the resignation of Mr. Charles A. Shorter on January 24.

The branch was responsible for the arrest of the owner and the employes of three establishments recently who were charged with the violation of the Pennsylvania equal rights law.

Irvin L. Finley, 3825 N. Bouvier St., was refused service on February 4 at the B. & W. Restaurant, 20 East Sellers Ave., in Ridley Park. Through intervention of the branch Gilmore Barcliff, owner, was arrested on a warrant. At a hearing before Justice of the Peace Albert Congdon, Ridley Park, Barcliff was held in $100 bail for court.

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TENNESSEE: On February the KNOXVILLE branch celebrated the anniversary of the NAACP. Attorney Carl Cowan is the newly elected legal advisor to the Knoxville branch.

Third anniversary of the JOHNSON CITY branch was observed at a mass meeting on February 16 at the Thankful Baptist church, with Attorney Maurice Weaver of Chatanooga, Tenn., as the principal speaker.

TEXAS: The ABILENE branch celebrated national Negro health week with a program in one of the local churches, with Dr. Melba McNeil, white, as guest speaker.

Book Reviews

AMONG THE MAROONS

Katherine Dunham's Journey To Accompong. Drawings by Ted Cook. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1946. IX+162pp. $2.50.

Those of us who have had the privilege of seeing Miss Dunham dance have wondered about the authenticity of her choreography. Such words as "primitive," "native," "voodoo-like" and "African" have embellished almost every review.

In *Journey to Accompong* Miss Dunham has gone to the source—to the Caribbean region where African survivals blend with aboriginal Indian customs—and this book tells of her month long visit (no other outsider has stayed there more than a day or two) with the Maroons of Jamaica.

Now dwindling in numbers, these people were the descendents of some 1500 West Africans, slaves left behind by the Spaniards. In the early 18th century the Maroons retreated to the interior where they perpetuated the customs of their forefathers and resisted the new ways of the coastal people.

It was from the Maroons that Miss Dunham learned the true African dance: The war dances of Koromantee, in which both men and women whirl in passionate anticipation of the coming battle and the ultimate victory; the feast dance, expressing both thanksgiving and humble respect for nature, followed by sex dances anticipatory of fruitfulness among women. All these she learned, and more, even the ritual dances associated with the forbidden *obeah*, or black magic.

Journey to Accompong gives you not Katherine Dunham the dancer, but Katherine Dunham the writer and analyst of native peoples and customs. Always it is Dunham the artist seeking new dances or the basic African content of old, but she is also the student of culture interpreting what is happening to these people as "civilization" veneers what is theirs by birthright.

This is not a scientific treatise, nor does it pretend to be. It is a sympathetic, sincere appreciation of a native people and their ways of life. It is an insight into why and how Katehrine Dunham brings dynamic reality to her dance interpretations. And, incidentally, it's entertaining reading!

—CHARLES ENOCH WHEELER

IN RE CIVIL RIGHTS

The Constitution and Civil Rights. **By Milton R. Konvitz. New York: Columbia University Press, 1947. X+254pp. $3.00.**

At last the vital story of the federal Constitution and civil rights has been treated in a monograph which will appeal to the lay mind. This thesis is written without resort to the verbiage customarily used by lawyers and others writing about the law.

Dr. Konvitz confines his discussion to the rights of persons to employment, to accomodations in hotels, restaurants, common carriers, and other places of public accomodation and resort. He also examines the constitutional definition of the terms "privileges and immunities" and shows how the Supreme Court has so limited the meaning of this clause until little remains which may be labeled as a federal privilege or immunity.

Of especial significance is the clear and concise analysis given the Supreme Court's decision in the Civil Rights Cases which were decided in 1883. Both Mr. Justice Bradley's opinion for the majority and Mr. Justice Harlan's classic dissent are lucidly explained and interpreted.

Konvitz says: "The decision in the Civil Rights Cases is one of the most far reaching in the social history of the people of the United States. Specifically it has meant these things: (1) Race distinctions with respect to enjoyment of facilities in carriers, inns (hotels, restaurants) theatres, and places of public accommodation and amusement generally, violated no constitutional guarantee. (2) Individuals are free to make such distinctions without interference from the federal government. (3) States are free to make (or even compel) such distinctions without violating any constitutional guarantee."

The majority Court opinion (and there was just one dissent) in the Civil Rights Cases, in many instances, has disregarded precedent and, while mouthing a contrary sentiment, firmly fastened the badge of slavery to the chests of untold generations of colored people. In fact, "Jim Crow" has been crowned King, and the 13th and 14th Amendments have been so emasculated that neither Charles Sumner nor Thaddeus Stevens would hardly recognize them today. In the name of "states' rights" the Civil War amendments, and federal laws made pursuant thereto, have been made almost meaningless, so far as federal legislation is concerned. The Screws decision aptly illustrates the feebleness of the federal government in the field of civil rights.

Justice John M. Harlan, in his dissent in the Civil Rights Cases, held that constitutional rights should not be construed so narrowly. He would interpret the Civil War amendments in such a way as to give all citizens of the United States the Constitutional protection of their civil rights. According to Harlan, the power of Congress under the 13th amendment was not limited to legislation against slavery as an institution. It might be extended to the protection of Negroes against discrimination in respect to Civil rights belonging to freedmen where such discrimination is based upon race. He also argued that the 14th amendment applied to individuals or corporations exercising public functions or authority.

Harlan contended that the Civil War amendments gave Congress authority to enact legislation to protect the civil rights of the new freedmen. But this great dissent has yet to become the law of the land; on the other hand Mr. Justice Bradley's majority opinion has been so closely followed that federal law now affords almost no protection to the civil rights of the citizen. This is tragically demonstrated by the inability of the federal government to handle the problem of lynching. The doctrine advanced by the majority in the Civil Rights Cases, which is based on states' rights rather than human rights, must be overruled. In his analysis of a number of civil rights cases Konvitz attempts to find a way to do this.

After the Supreme Court declared the federal Civil Rights Act unconstitutional and the subject one for the states exclusively, some states above the Mason and Dixon line began to enact civil rights acts. However, the purveyors of race hate attempted to apply the hatchet to them also. Generally the courts have held such laws constitutional, but, have as a rule, construed them strictly. While certain states outside the South were enacting civil rights statutes, the South, by legislation, was solidifying its policy of separation and discrimination.

In this volume various state statutes affecting civil rights are analyzed. It is clearly demonstrated that where legislation has been passed to protect the civil rights of the citizen, the lot of minority groups is thereby improved. Where legislation has been adopted by state to perpetuate the doctrine of jim crow, the lot of the minority gets worse. This book gives lie to those exponents of the idea that laws do not help to alleviate patterns of discrimination.

The appendices to this book are invaluable. Here a number of state civil rights acts are set out and examined along with the model civil rights bill proposed by the American Civil Liberties Union. In fact one marvels at the quantity and quality of material Dr. Konvitz has been able to get between the covers of this small book. It definitely meets a need and should be a must on your reading list.

W. Hale Thompson

THINGS TALKED ABOUT

New Novels: WILLIAM ATTAWAY, ex-GI and author of the novels *Let Me Breathe Thunder* (1939) and *Blood on the Forge* (1941), is now putting finishing touches on a new novel, the title of which is yet to be announced. Mr. Attaway says that his work is a psychological study, but refuses to divulge further information. The manuscript of RALPH ELLISON'S first novel will, he tells us, soon be in the hands of his publisher. Mr. Ellison has already made a reputation as a discerning literary critic and short story writer. *You Can Come and Live With Me* is the title of a new novel by Mercedes Gilbert, Broadway actress and concert monologist of the "one woman theatre." The book is scheduled for fall publication. Miss Gilbert's first book was *Aunt Sara's Wooden God* (1938). On May 23 SINCLAIR LEWIS' new novel, *King's Blood Royal*, which is rumored to have an iconoclastic racial theme, will be published by Random House. J. A. ROGERS, author of the recently published *World's Great Men of Color*, Vol. I, has a novel, tentatively titled *Lords of Loot*, due for publication in the very near future.

Autobiography: WALTER WHITE, executive secretary of the NAACP, is now writing his autobiography. Mr. White brings to his life-story his broad, intimate knowledge of men and affairs gained during his twenty-nine years with the Association.

New York: Dr. Irene Diggs, research assistant to Dr. Du Bois, is now back at her desk after a successful seven-month lecture tour of the leading cities of Central and South America. Dr. Diggs' trip was under the auspices of the Division of International Exchange of Persons, United States Department of State. Her speech delivered in the Biblioteca Artigas-Washington, Montevideo, Uruguay, has been published in Spanish in their March bulletin. She will also write a series of articles for the two great dailies of Buenos Aires, *La Nación* and *La Prensa*.

The *Survey Graphic* (January, 1947) devotes the twelfth in its "Calling America" series to "Segregation." Under direction of special editor Thomas Sancton this American institution is examined in four parts: dimensions, regional devices, man-made institutions, and the struggle for reason. The issue contains, among others, articles by Louis Wirth, Ira de A. Reid, Robert C. Weaver, Loren Miller, Charles G. Bolté, Henry Lee Moon and E. Franklin Frazier.

The most interesting article is that of the special editor, Mr. Sancton, "Segregation: the Pattern of a Failure." One gets from this special number an awareness that an increasing number of Americans regard segregation as waste, failure, and a psychological corrosive that must be destroyed.

Paris: René Maran, famous French Negro novelist and poet, winner of the *Prix Goncourt* in 1921 with his novel *Batouala*, writes in *Les Lettres Françaises* about the three Indo-Chinese poets, Tran-Van Tung, Makhali-Phal and Pham-Van Ky.

Translations: A French version of RICHARD WRIGHT'S first published book, *Uncle Tom's Children* (1938), a collection of novellas dealing with life in the Deep South, will soon be issued in Paris by Albin Michel. This aroused our curiosity as to the number of languages into which Mr. Wright's two most controversial books, *Native Son* and *Black Boy*, have been translated. So we telephoned Harper's, Mr. Wright's publisher, for information: They report nine languages for *Native Son*, as follows: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, Swedish, German, Dutch, Danish, and Czech. *Black Boy*, of which more than 500,000 copies have been distributed in this country, has been translated, according to the agent for the book, Paul R. Reynolds & Son, into fourteen languages, including Finnish, German, French, Czech, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Hungarian, Hebrew, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Dutch, and Esperanto (selections). The book is now, so Reynolds informs us, being translated into Bengali.

Ben Carruthers and Langston Hughes are preparing a collection of Nicolás Guillén's

poems in English. So far only excerpts from Guillén's works have been published in the little magazines. Guillén, born in Camaguey, Cuba, in 1904, is rated by critics the best Cuban poet today, and one of the best writing in Spanish. A mulatto, Guillén's poetry is folkloric in its rich expression and rhythmic beauty. It is *poesia afrocubana*, catching the anguish, the protest, and the irony of the Afro-Cuban in the modern world. Guillén's published volumes are *Motivos de Son* (1930), *Sóngoro Cosongo* (1931), *West Indies Ltd.* (1934), *Cantos Para Soldados y Sones Para Turistas* (1937), *and España, poema en Cuatro Angustias y una Esperanza* (1937).

A LETTER FROM ANN PETRY: "I thought you might be interested to know that I have sold the Danish serial rights to my short story 'Like a Winding Sheet.' As you undoubtedly remember this story first appeared in *The Crisis* [November, 1945] and it seems to me a confirmation of your literary judgment that the story should have been reprinted in Martha Foley's *Best American Short Stories 1946* and will soon be available in a foreign language."

ROBERT GOFFIN, Belgian connoisseur and critic of jazz and author of the first serious book on the subject, *Aux Frontieres du Jazz* (1932), has written a biography of Louis Armstrong, *Le Roi du Jazz: la Passionnante Histoire de Louis Armstrong*, The King of Jazz: the Stirring Story of Louis Armstrong, which is now being serialized in the Parisian literary newspaper, *Les Lettres Françaises*. Goffin dedicated his first book, *On the Frontiers of Jazz* to Mr. Armstrong with these words: "To Louis Armstrong the real King of Jazz in Witness of a Warm Admiration."

Rio de Janeiro: Here are two items of interest to students and admirers of the Brazilian social historian, Gilberto Freyre.

We learn from the Brazilian periodical *A Vida dos Livros*, which is the official organ of Freyre's publisher, José Olympio, that the author of *The Masters and the Slaves*, and dozens of other books, is being proposed as a candidate for the 1947 literary prize of the Nobel Institute. "We have at hand," says the paper, "a Brazilian who is easily worthy of consideration by the Nobel committee in Stockholm. This Brazilian is the noted writer Gilberto Freyre, today a deputy representing the state of Pernambuco. . . ." Nine Brazilian institutions are listed, among them the Academia Brasileira de Letras, as endorsing Freyre as a candidate.

Freyre certainly deserves the honor and *The Crisis* is interested in seeing the Nobel prize go to a Latin-American writer who, apart from his literary merits, is the outstanding proponent of studies concerning the Negro in Latin America.

The second item concerns publication of the fifth edition of *Casa-Grande & Senzala*, the fourth edition of which appeared in English dress by Samuel Putnam in New York last year under the title of *The Masters and the Slaves* (Knopf). The fifth edition, like the fourth, is in two volumes and appears "with few textuals alterations" but with additional notes and bibliographical references. The two volumes contain 55 pages of introduction, 651 pages of text (five chapters), 141 pages of minute and scholarly notes (gathered at the end of each chapter), and 44 pages of bibliography, index to illustrations, material and names cited. With this edition Freyre and his publisher announce them as the first two volumes in a projected monumental work to be known under the general title of *Introduction to the History of Patriarchal Society in Brazil.*

General plan of the work as announced by author and publisher is as follows:

Vols. 1-2: *Casa-Grande & Senzala* (Big-House & Slave Hut). Formation of the Brazilian family under a patriarchal economy.

Vols. 3-4: *Sobrados e Mucambos* (Town Houses and Slums). Decline of the rural patriarchy in Brazil and the development of a semi-patriarchal urban society. First edition of this study appeared in 1936, chapter 6 of which, "Rise of the Bachelor and the Mulatto," explains the transference of "power, considerable power at least, from the rural aristocracy, usually white, to the intellectual *bourgeoisie*, the bachelor or doctor, who was often mulatto."

Vol. 5: *Orden e Progresso* (Order and Progress). The process of disintegration of the rural patriarchal and semi-patriarchal societies in Brazil under a system of free labor.

Vol. 6: *Jazigos e Covas Rasas* (Barrows and Plain Graves). Burial and commemoration of the dead in patriarchal and semi-patriarchal Brazil.

Vol. 7: *Seleçao de Manuscritos e Documentos Illustrativos* (A Selection of Illustrative Manuscripts and Documents). A selection designed to show the most characteristic relations between individuals, groups, and institutions in the patriarchal and semi-patriarchal societies in Brazil in the principal areas, though they do not always coincide, during their peirods of integration, equilibrium, and disintegration.

Vol. 8: *Seleçao de Reproducoes de Pinturas, Mapas, Gravuras, Daguerreótipos e Fotografias* (Selection of Reproductions of Paintings, Engravings, Daguerreotypes, and Photographs). A selection illustrative of the most characteristic types of men, animals, houses, personal property, vehicles, tumuli, and patriarchal and semi-patriarchal dominions in Brazil in the principal areas of cattle and mineral monoculture.

Vol. 9: *Bibliografia Geral e Indices* (General Bibliography and Indexes).

Ellis Arnall

(*Continued from page 139*)

they are accused of "intolerable interference." Northern programs, even for education, are unwelcome there except when they come accompanied by funds from philanthropists or foundations to build schools and colleges and thus provide work for southern builders — strictly segregated schools and colleges, of course. Mr. Arnall laughs off views and solutions of others like this on page 106: "There are clever economists and sociologists who have provided ideas drawn from filing cabinets and slide rules." Ideas do not necessarily deteriorate when filed (if not left in file too long). Some of Mr. Arnall's own ideas are well worth filing, but not his ideas about Negroes, since he finds their predicament insoluble. It should not be called the Negro problem, he says, because that term implies the possibility of a solution. (Of course it should really be called the Negro-white problem.)

In spite of his plea for an America that is one community, Mr. Arnall, on page 11, asks us to remember that the South "still taps its feet to the tune of Dixie." Actually no American with the slightest sense of rhythm can help tapping to that enticing tune. But Negroes would like to be able to tap to it without a sense that they are unwelcome in Dixie except as "hewers of wood and drawers of water," and all Americans would like to be able to tap to that American folk tune with complete pride instead of the sense of shame that comes with the thought of southern attitudes and practices.

The one hope that we can have, if Mr. Arnall emerges on the national scene, is that his vision is better than he admits. Perhaps he is like those elderly relatives who find it convenient at times not to admit how much they hear or see. For instance, when he remarks the prolific birth rate and poverty of the South a man with Mr. Arnall's knowledge of history, economics, and sociology must realize that for many southern regions a program of education in "planned parenthood" would be advisable. But his political vision is sufficiently acute to see that the espousal of any such plan would be sufficient excuse for his enemies to lop off his political head.

Democrat vs. democrat

Mr. Arnall calls himself a "democrat with a little 'd' " and states on page 61 that "There is nothing wrong with government today that a good dose of democracy will not cure." Actually his real or assumed lack of vision as to the rights of our greatest minority race makes us conclude that he is a Democrat with a very large "D," a "D" that grows larger and larger as 1948 looms up. Yet his sight is extremely dim if he does not see that if he wishes all of these United States to give him a national office, he might better take an unequivocal liberal stand similar to that of some of his fellow Southerners, such as Dr. Broadus Mitchell, Dr. Dan Dodson, Mr. Clark Forman, Mr. Stetson Kennedy, Senator Claude Pepper

(*Continued on page 158*)

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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Telephone: TWinooks 9688

Matthews & Williams
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Member Kentucky Legislature
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Telephone: Mad 8892

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Telephone: 32533

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Telephone: Terrace 2-1934

Floyd H. Skinner
Michigan at Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids 2
Telephone: 8-9042

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Louis E. Saunders
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John N. Griggs, Jr.
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Chester K. Gillespie
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Telephone: Walnut 2-1042

Theodore Spaulding
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Office: F4895: Home: F0853

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Newport News
Telephone: 5-1974

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Telephone: 2-1391

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133 Harrison St., Petersburg
Telephone: 653

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Telephone: 31931 & 21479

T. G. Nutter
608½ Kanawha Blvd., Charleston 1
Telephone: 22641

J. M. Ellis
Oak Hill
Telephone: 257

Ellis Arnall

(Continued from page 156)

and Dr. Frank P. Graham, the last three of whom still make the South their home. Perhaps the adoption of a truly liberal program might make Arnall lose political power in parts of his own unified Southland, Bilbo's region for instance. On the other hand, many of the "Aroused Citizens of Georgia" would support him more heartily. If Mr. Arnall's sight is too dim to see the liberal trend of national opinion, he might put his ear to the ground to hear the immense increase, in the last five years, of public argument for fair racial conditions on the radio, on public and club platforms, in the theatre, in city committees on Unity, in college and school debating societies, etc., all of which influence voters nationally. If his eyes can't see, his ears might hear the hopeful statements of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People as to the tremendous gains for racial justice both during and since the war on many fronts throughout the nation. If Arnall, then Governor, had provided sufficient police protection for potential witnesses before the Federal Grand Jury, it is possible that someone would have won the $62,000 of awards offered by the State of Georgia, the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People and other interested organizations for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of members of the mob of forty white people, who in Monroe county last July, lynched two Negro men and their wives.

If improved sight and hearing of todays' trends should cause Mr. Arnall to fail in his ambition for national office at least he would fail as did Hooker's men, by whose defeat at Fredericksburg, as an elderly cousin of Arnall's told him, "the Yankee soldiers really began to win the war." Seven times they charged and seven times they were driven back until there were no men left. But "they had fallen forward as becomes a man."

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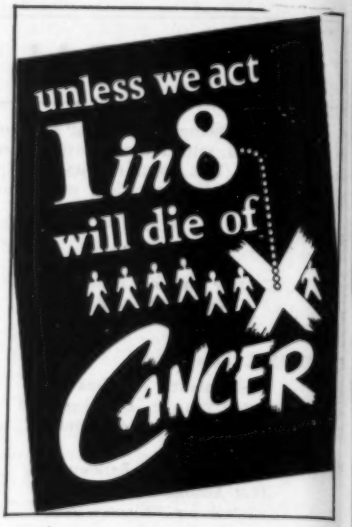

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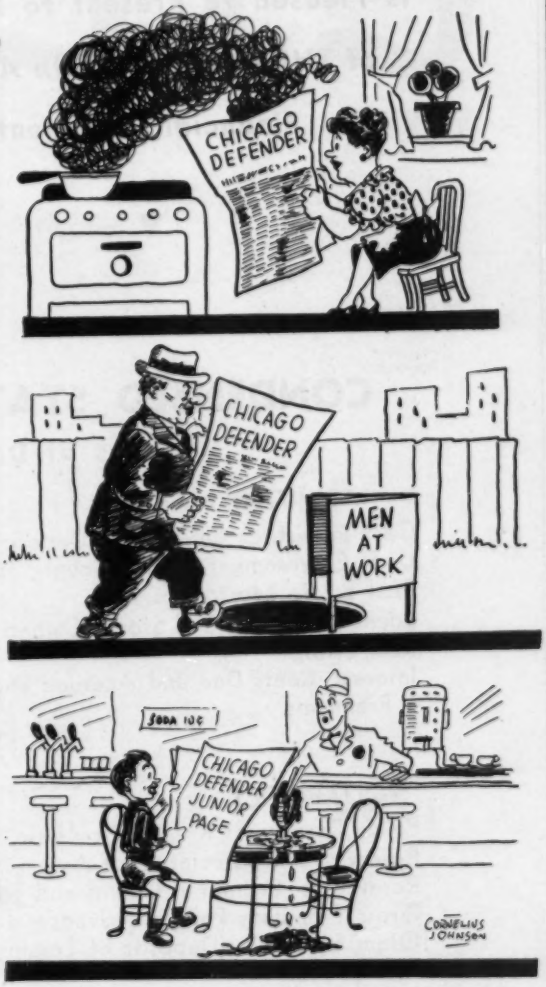

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CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

As of December 31, 1946

ADMITTED ASSETS	
Cash in District Offices and Deposits in Banks	$ 106,042.59
U. S. Government, State, County and Municipal Bonds	1,070,387.29
Real Estate Mortgages	506,971.78
Loans on Policies and Stocks Owned	4,006.00
Real Estate	250,068.64
Interest, Rents Due and Accrued and Uncollected and Deferred Premiums	24,364.09
Total Assets	$ 1,961,840.39
LIABILITIES	
Policy Reserve as Required by Law	$ 981,730.65
Reserve for Depreciation of Assets	125,000.00
Reserve for Estimated Claims and Taxes	33,417.00
Gross Premiums Paid in Advance	32,973.32
Other Liabilities (Deposits of Employees, Accounts Due and Dividends)	54,818.32
Total	$ 1,227,939.29
Capital Paid In	150,000.00
Unassigned Funds (Surplus)	583,901.10
Total	$ 1,961,840.39

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